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On
The 50th Anniversary of AAPSO
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Introduction

50 years ago Cairo hosted the conference that marked the establishment of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) and its Permanent Secretariat, with the aim of consolidating solidarity between the peoples of Asia and Africa. AAPSO has also been meant to be a link among solidarity committees in the two continents to project deeply the spirit and great principles of Bandung.

Over many years AAPSO managed to attain different objectives. It has supported liberation and resistance movements. Several countries have achieved independence. Furthermore, AAPSO has enlarged its activities to involve some active organizations and entities such as the Afro-Asian Writers Federation, the Afro-Asian Youth Movement and others. AAPSO has, undoubtedly, contributed to boosting international solidarity and friendship between African and Asian peoples.

In view of changes and innovations in all political, economic, social, and cultural fields, AAPSO like other organizations and movements (United Nations, Non-alignment Movement), has been facing enormous complications and difficulties which require strengthening the strategies and overview of AAPSO, so as to enable accommodation with prerequisites of the new age. AAPSO, hereby, has considered its 50th anniversary as a basis of a new framework of the Organization.

Hence, AAPSO held a conference on February 26 – 28, 2008 under the banner of: The 50th Anniversary: "AAPSO in a Globalized Interdependent World". The conference highlighted the recent world

*** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

changes so as to reach somewhat new vision based on the golden heritage of AAPSO, toward moving onto futuristic horizons. It has paid tribute to the memory of the Late Dr. Morad Ghaleb, AAPSO president who passed away amid preparations for the conference.

Many key figures in the fields of thinking and culture, and representatives of Arab and Asian solidarity committees and their affiliate bodies' took part in the event. African participation was rather missed due to constraints in African countries over the past two decades.

Participants to the conference have contributed efficiently to the events presenting of papers and valuable contribution on different issues concerned worldwide. Case in point was AAPSO vision into a globalized world based on mutual independence, globalization policies, neo-liberalism and enlarged role of regional blocks. Besides, the conference focused on the increasing tension and terrorism, disarmament, NPT, human rights, empowerment of women, and climate changes.

A special session was dedicated to discussing the status of AAPSO and electing the new President Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch who heads the Egyptian Solidarity Committee to follow steps of the Late Dr. Morad Ghaleb and played a positive role toward boosting Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement.

This book contains documents and contribution to the conference. However, we apologize for being unable to publish the whole material due to some difficult in decording the tapes of the Conference.

The book is, actually, an attempt to contributes to formulation of the new structure of of Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement targeted to be based on multi faceted forces and thoughts with a state of art technology. Besides, the current information revolution should be used to help the Afro-Asian peoples strength.

Toward the end, we wish to refer to the 8th AAPSO Congress to be hosted by All India Organization of Peace and Solidarity on December 14 – 16, 2008, in Hyderabad with our best wishes of all success.

Hamsa Abd El-Hamid Genidy
Rapporteur

Inauguration Session

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain*

On behalf of the Permanent Secretariat, I take this honour to welcome you in this meeting of the 50th anniversary of AAPSO.

We are deeply saddened that our revered president and a cornerstone of our movement Dr. Morad Ghaleb, passed away at a time when we were preparing for this historic meeting.Dr. Morad Ghaleb had been our leader for two decades of our difficult times of the movement.

As an appreciation of Dr. Morad Ghaleb's role, the Permanent Secretariat decided to dedicate this 50th anniversary to nis memory.

In this connection it is our duty to remember the veterans of our movement who made a relentless struggle against colonialism and ror liberation that led their countries for setting up societies to serve their people and achieve peace and prosperity.

Their names are as follows:

- Youssef El Sebaie, AAPSO's First Secretary – General.
- Abdul Rahman Al-Sharkawi, AAPSO's First President.
- Dr. Morad Ghaleb, AAPSO's Second President.
- Abdul Aziz, AAPSO's Deputy President from Sri Lanka.
- Aziz Sherif, AAPSO's Deputy President from Iraq.
- Chandrajit Yadav, AAPSO's Deputy President from India.

*** Acting President and AAPSO Secretary General.**

- Alfred Azo, AAPSO's Deputy President from South Africa and Former Foreign Minister.
- O.P Paliwal, AAPSO's Deputy Secretary – General from India.
- Chitta Biswas, AAPSO's Deputy Secretary – General from India.
- Baran Ray, AAPSO's Deputy Secretary from India.
- Dan Cindy, AAPSO's Permanent Secretariat Member from AHC. South Africa.
- Daniel Qila, AAPSO's Permanent Secretariat Member from Congo (Brazzaville).
- Torson Zada, First President of Soviet Solidarity Committee.
- Ibrahimor, Second President of Soviet Solidarity Committee.
- Kapitza, Third President of Soviet Solidarity Committee.
- K.M.Khan, General Secretary of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation and India's Committee on Defense of Palestine.

As a mark of respect, I request kindly stand up for a minute of silence in honour of our departed heroes and martyrs.

Although Dr. Morad Ghaleb is no more, I extend a very special welcome to you in Egypt on his behalf and in my own name, to this great land of the Nile.

It has been five decades since the establishment of AAPSO on January 1st, 1958. This long course began with AAPSO adopting the ten Principles of the Bandung conference.

AAPSO throughout its history, played a vital role in supporting the liberation struggles of Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and Korean people and also the people of the Portuguese colonies. Moreover AAPSO stood solidly in defense of Palestinian, Algerian, Lebanese, and Arab struggles in addition to supporting African nations in general and Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa in particular.

AAPSO held crucial international seminars and conferences on economic issues of these countries and their development. Also it discussed burning issues such as oil and transnational

corporations, on military bases, imperialism, peace and security, disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, AAPSO deliberated in different conferences regarding issues and social development of Afro-Asian women, a new international information system, the media's role in regional conflicts and intellectual information system, the media's role in regional conflicts and intellectual issues such as: clash of civilization or cultures dialogue?

AAPSO played a crucial and a pivotal role in establishing African-Asian popular organization like: Afro-Asian youth, Afro-Asian Women, Afro-Asian Lawyers and Afro-Asian Writers.

AAPSO held 7 constitutional conferences, 15 Council Meetings, and 22 regional meetings for Arab Solidarity Committees, moreover number of meetings for Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees.

Papers of these conferences whether it was constitutional, or seminars, or round tables, or workshops have been gathered in more than 200 books which constitute a documentary library on the national liberation movement in African, Asian, and in Arab countries, in the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

AAPSO supported Non-Aligned Movement as it was born out of the Bandung Conference and founded upon Bandung principles. AAPSO as an international non-governmental organization enjoys observer status in the Non-Aligned Movement from its inception.

AAPSO has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), furthermore in UNESCO, UNIDO and UNCTAD. Moreover, AAPSO has observer status in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).

AAPSO today faces new challenges different from formative days. Although many of Bandung principles are still unrealized, it constitute an integrated part of South people's struggle. The present conditions differ from the past, the language and the methods of work.

Following the collapse of the socialist camp and the emergence of unipolar hegemony over world so far, with scientific and technological revolution, and information and telecommunication revolution, we are living in a new world which poses enormous challenges for people and popular organizations.

Militarized globalization imposed by USA, and its policy based on hegemony and arrogance, armed invasion, occupation, and war to counter what so-called terrorism lead to aggravate terrorism. Moreover, in addition to terrorist groups and organizations, there are countries practice policies of state terrorism in every possible way from killing innocent people, imprisoning, torturing, kidnapping and assassination, at the top of this list comes USA and Israel.

Conflicts based on religious fundamentalism, civil strife among different religions and among the fundamentalist of the same religion, accelerate ethnic clashes within and out of borders.

We fully support nations struggle from the beginning to restore their independence and establish communities according to their national vision.

From this platform we salute Latin American victories, the magnificent new experiences, and the capability of Latin American revolutionary forces to cope up with time, to determine their vision to achieve their national dreams, and to find democratic means to achieve victory. This confirms that nations can achieve new victories through peaceful democratic methods.

New international coditions, especially in South, attach considerable importance to the endurance of organizations like AAPSO. Hegemony and globalization in North should be confronted by solidarity, unity and mobilization in South. The people of South need to have international popular organizations like AAPSO. Consequently, AAPSO needs modernization, determiniation of its priorities, and innovation of new means to be achieved after this outstanding historic meeting.

Although, AAPSO has outstanding positive achievements, nevertheless there are short coming, and lack of proper vision, speech, slogans or in working methods. Thus it requires a full serious and objective studies of local, regional and international.

As our conference celebrates AAPSO's 50th anniversary, on this occasion AAPSO has to draw the broader lines for future extend to coming decades.

AAPSO is an integrated part of struggle of liberation of human heritage seeking better future. A better future will be possible if we have the will and this is our duty which we fulfilled in this half century, to hand this heritage to the new generation who will proceed forward.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my warm welcome to you all and I would like to salute the Egyptian role, as it continuous to provide the centre of the Permanent Secretariat. Egypt supported, and respected fully AAPSO's independence and sovereignty. AAPSO warmly appreciates the Egyptian role. Moreover, I would like to express our sincere thanks, in my own name and on behalf of AAPSO, to Egypt's President, Government and people.

Once again it is my pleasure to welcome you all.

Mr. Ahmed Abu-el-Gheit*

Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Congratulations on the occasion of celebrating the 50th anniversary of establishing the African-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO). Hereafter I am going to read out the speech of Mr. Foreign Minister Ahmed Abu-el-Gheit, as he could not do himself due to engagements abroad:

First, Thanks to AAPSO for the decent invitation to take part in this celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Organization established in 1958 as a fruit of the 1st Conference of the Afro-Asian Peoples which was held at Cairo University.

Since the establishment of the Organization in 1958, up till the present time, we have passed by important events and developments in all countries of: Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Peoples of the three continents have borne the fruits of their struggles for freedom and independence; although the Palestinian peoples are still trying hard to attain their fair and legitimate right of establishing the free and independent Palestinian State.

However, the current international stance, which our countries contributed to formulate following their independence, holds us

*** Egyptian Foreign Minister. The speech delivered by Mr. Khaled Elbakly, the Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.**
**** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

responsible for facing challenges and exerting efforts to attain targets. Forward among such efforts is to continue establishing and sustaining economic as well as human resources development within the framework of a world system based on mutual economic cooperation.

As committed to her responsibility, and pioneering role, toward mobilizing efforts of the Southern Countries to achieve the Afro-Asian social and human resources development - in addition to its endeavors at the UN, international events, and conferences to preserve rights and interests of the Southern Countries in attaining development and overall progress - Egypt is to host the 15th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement next year. This actually comes within the framework of a comprehensive viewpoint aimed at affirming solidarity and cooperation in social and economic fields in-between countries of the South as well as the development of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

In order to achieve their targets of development, the Afro-Asian governments must inter-act with the civil society organizations which play a prominent vital role in tackling international issues of direct impact on peoples such as the environment, development, and human rights.

Egypt , hereby, pays a paramount attention to sustaining the civil society and cooperation with influential NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations), especially AAPSO, toward dealing with international issues.

In this concern, I invite you to formulate and put forward plans and suggestions for achieving inter-active development so that they may be studied before the 15th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Within the framework of a comprehensive and integrated development, Egypt pays attention to human rights on the

international level. Egypt is keen on participating actively to different international forums so as to formulate somewhat international criteria of human rights based on multi-party frameworks and international agendas. We are, undoubtedly, committed to our values, identity, and privacy, not to mention our international commitments. Hence, Egypt managed to acquire the membership of the Human Rights Council as from 2007 to 2010 with world-wide support.

Since early years of membership in the Council, Egypt has been keen on having constant coordination with Asian and African countries in order to bring to focus issues of human rights and others to be discussed within the framework of international agenda of human rights. Foremost among these issues are anti-discrimination, hatred of foreigners, resentment of religion, and management of economic, social, and cultural human rights. One would, hereby, also mention the right of having development in both regional and non-regional groupings. Within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement, Egypt introduced some drafts, resolutions, and initiatives to be highlighted by the Council, though not even discussed by western countries, cause such issues would be regarded as being against their interests and stances,

Mr. President,

Egypt believes that the right of being secure must be regarded as one of the most important elements of stability and development. So, we must continue working in the Security Council toward achieving the non proliferation of weapons so that international security could be established. In this concern, Egypt called for overall nuclear weapons disarmament; one of the main priorities of the Non-Aligned Movement.

President Hosni Mubarak has made an initiative to hold the Middle East region as void of all weapons of mass destruction. The international community should then hold the responsibility of

pressing Israel – the only state in the area that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) - to join the Treaty and submit all its nuclear establishments to The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection. Meanwhile Egypt supports endeavors aimed at having areas void of the weapons of mass-destruction in Africa, South East Asia, and Mid-Asia; hopefully, to have the whole world as void of such weapons.

To continue its march toward establishing security in the different regions of the South, Egypt is taking part in endeavors of the Afro-Asian governments and peoples in international events so as to wipe out small and light weapons illegal trade which has emerged due to constant armed conflicts in different places.

To sum up: achieving security, welfare; as well as social and economic development would, simply, require us all to exert somewhat concerted efforts. Here, I again invite you to contribute to making the coming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement a pivotal point toward achieving comprehensive development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This could be achieved via strenuous efforts and ambitions of the civil society bodies - like your Organization - and governments in order to attain unified targets namely progress and stability for our peoples.

Thank you...I wish all the best

Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch*

Dear colleagues,

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to Cairo, wishing you a pleasant stay and hoping that our conference convened by AAPSO as an attempt to find its role in a globalized interdependent world, will culminate in reaching some facts that can guide us to a better life in this era prevailed by tremendous changes in all different areas.

I wished our dear departed Dr. Morad Ghaleb had participated with us in this conference, but it is the will of Allah. He passed away, while we are here badly in need of his knowledge, experience and patriotism.

Dear colleagues,

The meeting of this great gathering of leaders of thought and opinion concerned with solidarity from different Asian, African and European countries, reflects a considerable concern for the question of globalization which has become imposed on peoples' life in different countries. We, therefore, have become required to learn about every thing that could be resulted in such globalization, whether positive or negative effects. We are also required to face these effects with complete objectivity that is able

*** President of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee.**

**** Translated by: Ms. Noha Ibrahim.**

to save the world from wars, assaults, discrimination and environmental hazards and to provide a world where peace, security and social justice prevail, away from poverty, terrorism and extremism. It is a duty which the organization undoubtedly realizes its role in fulfilling it relying on its political, intellectual and popular influence.

I have no doubt that the talks, ideas and opinions that we are going to exchange in this conference will guide us in the anticipated future which drives us forward towards convergence and unity within regional groupings capable of achieving common interests for the peoples.

I wish you the best of luck in playing that noble humanitarian role through AAPSO which we celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year. AAPSO was established in the first conference for solidarity of Afro-Asian peoples, held in Cairo in December 1957 in a response to President Gamal Abdel Nasser's call. We hope that AAPSO's initiative to convene this conference will be a starting point for supporting and developing the idea of solidarity among peoples in different continents.

Finally, I would like to express my deep thanks to Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak and all the staff of the Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO for their appreciated efforts in preparing for that meeting.

Till we meet soon

Mr. Pallab Sen Gupta *

Respected President, members of Presidium and the assembled delegates and friends:

It gives me a great privilege to represent All India Peace and Solidarity Organization. I wish to congratulate you all present here to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization; the organization which played many important roles in building strong solidarity movement not only in Asian, or African region but in the worldwide to fight against imperialism for independence, peace, democracy and development. I also wish to congratulate the Egyptian Committee for their political and moral contribution for AAPSO for last fifty years. In this context, I wish to pay our sincere homage and respect to our departed president comrade Dr. Morad Ghaleb who played a very important role in difficult period that AAPSO faced last twenty years; here I wish to recall with respect the role of All Indian Peace and Solidarity Organization in building Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity movement.

It was Srimathi Rameshwari Nehru the most respected of our organization who came to Cairo to meet the President Gamal Abd El-Nasser and proposed him the idea of creating AAPSO and President Nasser accepted this idea and AAPSO came in to be.

***Secretary-General of AIPSO (India).**

From the inception of AAPSO, the AIPSO did its best to contribute to strengthen the AAPSO and we promise that we will continue to do so.

During the last fifty years of glorious struggles initiated by AAPSO should be remembered in the face of the present challenges by building broader solidarity movement and extending solidarity with the struggles of the people to defend national sovereignty against the imperialists.

I do believe that AAPSO will fulfill its objectives and wish AAPSO all success in the future.

Thank You

Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim *

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the inception of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), we are bound to recall the absent but forever present memory of Dr.Morad Ghaleb, whose loss was of a high magnitude for the Organization and for our nations to whom he consecrated his life struggling and defending freedom and independence. His memory shall forever reside in our minds and conscience.

The Organization was established amidst circumstances that are no longer present. A century has lapsed full of ups and downs, and the model of the organization, though still young and green, proved its success. The Organization, since inception, contributed to the inculcation of progressive thought, and to bolstering our struggle against colonialist attacks on our nations and the usurpation of our national wealth. The role the Organization performs in the present gains greater importance with respect to the new developments related to globalization, the capitalist hegemony over the fortunes of nations and the World Order which invokes unequal reciprocity. We are in a dire need of a new vision that guides our understanding of the present which is shaped by numerous elements closely connected to the globalization of

*** Secretary General of the Council of Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Movement.**
- Translated by: Mr. Hassen Thabet.

production and which exemplifies the highest levels of capitalist system.

Unfortunately, we were no effective players except for being peaceful and bitter followers. It might be said that our nations, today, are not capable of re-charting the world at their own discretion though they possess the means for this end. Nor can they stand against the overflowing tide of globalization, let alone dreaming of a multi-polar world. Yet, our nations are emphatically capable of finding their way towards building their democratic regimes, safeguarding a reasonable standard for independent development, realizing the minimum level of social justice, human rights and democracy which shapes the era. Nations nowadays realize that what brings them together is much greater than what drives them apart in their global struggle. This is the struggle which would bring forth another possible world, and it is the world that deserves re-launching our struggle against passive objection, capitalizing on the human experience offered to us by globalization, regardless of the implications, and calling upon our nations to peacefully make use of the mechanisms and inclinations of globalization.

Brothers and Sisters,

Solidarity amongst our nations should reach its highest levels through changing solidarity organizations from their current elitist status into an effective popular one to respond adequately to developments and risks. In Iraq we have the Peace and Solidarity Movement with its legacy that dates back to 1950s and which managed to draw the contribution of familiar national and social figures and turned into a widely-spread grassroots movement. The Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity has become the pooling and meeting point for hundreds of civil society organizations and it has launched a popular campaign raising the emblem "United for Iraq" that underlies the efforts exerted to ascertain the values of

equality and justice and abrogate values of sectarianism, violence, terror and occupation.

The Council currently holds branches in all Iraqi provinces, in addition to convening of political and economic conferences, symposiums and seminars addressing the situation in Iraq. Soon to come is the establishment of one of the most significant activities of the Council which is the Authority for Popular General Prosecution and Integrity which will be the platform for defending the rights of individuals and groups, supporting human rights and standing against spendthrift of public money and corruption.

Brothers and Sisters,

I wish that this important gathering would bear fruit and shed the light on issues that could enhance the role of organizations in our societies so that our nations attain their due share of progress and development.

Thank you

Mr. Toshio Akiniwa *

I am Toshio Akiniwa, national representative for Japan AALA. Japan AALA is the solidarity committee. I remember the day since I visited Cairo fifty years ago to attend the Cairo meeting to establish AAPSO in 1958. Here I'd like to deliver my sincere feeling of the solidarity and greetings to the leaders of AAPSO and distinguished guests in this meeting for inviting us, and giving me an opportunity to greet this place. In 2006 when I visited Havana for attending the fourteenth NAM summit as the part of AAPSO delegation and when I came back to Japan, the reaction of the mass media in Japan was different showing the high concern on non-aligned movement and it was quite different from before.

Japanese media introduced a lot of speeches at the United Nations General Assembly meeting after this NAM summit. During this report we found lot of emotion about non-aligned movement, which was not seen before.

I think this mass media reporting produced new concern on Japan AALA and AAPSO as observer organization of non-aligned movement.

I think this is due to steps taken for revitalization of non-aligned movement. The existence and the role of AAPSO has been very important for other observer organizations of non-aligned Summit

*** President and national representative for Japan AALA.**

to establish new international order based on justice. Now I would like to conclude my speech expressing my resolute to act together with AAPSO for its development. And I would like to congratulate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of AAPSO from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you very much

Mr. Mohammad Saied Bakhtian*

On the Golden anniversary of AAPSO creation, we review with full respect and appreciation the glorious history of AAPSO achievements upon human and national levels in a real harsh circumstance distinguished mainly by colonization implying occupation, aggression, devastation, and exploitation; and by both continents' suffering–along with Latin America-from poverty, segmentation, and backwardness. This came along with an increasing aura of resistance and endurance of peoples; and a non-ceasing action carried out by liberalization movements, and national forces in the face of colonization advocated and schemes.

All these efforts and sacrifices would remain forever a living role-model in our memory, and a source of inspiration for more efforts to be exerted in our globalized world. Globalization is a clear evidence that nations–humanity, rather-face renewed constant challenges impose by the multi-faceted forces of hegemony; as our peoples' suffering would remain due to occupation, aggression, injustice, and double-standard international policies.

Despite the fact that our world in the second half of the previous century was to somewhat different from our world today, and the

*** Head of the Syrian Arab Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.**

- Translated by: Mr. Hassen Thabet.

fact that a number of AAPSO goals have been achieved via peoples struggle and strife; the intensity of changes facing the contemporary world requires serious revision of methods followed by third world peoples on facing the harsh challenges.

AAPSO was–and will remain- a pioneer in the concept of national and non-governmental planning upon the global level, the organization emphasizes the urgency of its existence today by means of its farsightedness for new horizons of factuality and future nationally, regionally, and internationally. Furthermore, the AAPSO was founded upon standards and principles that sound crucial and pressing nowadays due to the uni-polar dominant attitude that contradicts with principles of Bandung Conference, spirit of balance in international relations, peace, and security.

It is notable in the Arab territories that the traditional face of colonization is revived as a considerable number of the Arab countries are witnessing the most dangerous and noxious processes of new colonization embodied in the Greater Middle East project. Such initiative necessitates a vast historical encounter, a considerable share of whose tasks and burdens are imposed upon Solidarity Committee's shoulders. Priorities coming in the foremost are: activation of collective Arab role to enhance the Arab struggle and national solidarity, recalling feelings of proud Arab identity within new generations, revival of their national identity, consolidation of loyalty to such a great nation. Needless to say that Zionist colonization policy works on dividing the Arab stance, and prevents any of the Arab unity & solidarity formula; as such a unified Arab stance goes against Zionist plans and schemes. Thereupon, it rushes to renew conspiracy against Arab identity, present status, and future generations. Moreover, it renews ways of intervention in crucial national issues.

Upon this occasion, the Syrian Arab Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity calls upon interaction of all forces of freedom, justice, and peace in the region and the whole world to adopt a unified

stance in the face of the American-Zionist project intended against our region. It also calls for unification of efforts exerted to achieve an international and regional solidarity status to put an end for desperation caused by continued occupation of Arab territories, aggression against its peoples, and threats of besiege and sanctions, and external intervention. Moreover, it appeals to eradicate Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and to stand in the face of American and Israeli aggression against our lands, peoples, rights, and future aspirations. Besides, it calls for enhancing national resistance against all aspects of occupation, aggression, and injustice.

Despite complicated interlinked circumstances imposed by hegemony risks and projects, unipolarism, aggressiveness of occupation, dominant aura of division; still, there is hope and deep faith in the Arab national project, the usefulness of national mobility; so that countries might adopt serious approaches to consolidate Arab Solidarity, and activate joint Arab work to be able to respond to contemporary facts and up-to-dates be it modernization, reform, and an open-minded concerning peerage with the other role of national participation, and contribution of NGOs in making new life.

As we recall first day of AAPSO, we emphasize the necessity of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between peoples, as an indispensable episode in the series of Afro-Asian solidarity. Moreover, solidarity efforts between the two continents peoples are to be launched to prevail all around the globe. Hegemony-opposition movements are supposed to work together. Indeed, dissemination of these movements is one of the main features of our age, which opens new horizons before the AAPSO to renovate its activities, and activate the role it is playing.

Professor. Mohamed Arif *

Mr. Chairman, ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of British Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization and on my own behalf; I would like to contribute the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization on its 50th anniversary. During this period, the organization has tired lessly contributed to the aspiration of the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America in the struggle. The organization's efforts for publicity, coordination and cooperation inspired people toward the world to unite bargaining depreciation from imperialism regaining the dignity carrying out development and establish peace and solidarity. The organization has shown flexibility and ability to change and thus has managed to widen its campaign including such ideas, issues and unjust information order, racism, racial discrimination, and environmental degradation and exploitation by multinational corporations of developing countries. It has consistently campaign for solidarity, democracy and human rights. At the same time while I am speaking about the organization, I would also like to pay homage to our leader and president of AAPSO, Dr. Morad Ghaleb who is no longer with us, his commitment to the noble cause of justice and equality of all human beings has been a guiding principle for organization. It was his able leadership along with his colleagues

*** Secretary-General of British AAPSO.**

which make the organization a truly international organization. Now that he is no longer with us, others must take his place and be guided by his life and work.

Mr. Chairman, the enemies of human rights and supporters of inequality today are creating a bale between us and them, this is described today as a great debate on clash of civilization. These are widely propagated in western collotypes and generalist to provide Professor Edward Saeid and others for identifiable target for fear and haters justified invasion and economic plunder.

The goal is what Bill Clinton call for the integration of countries in to the global free market community. The best to get involve in the plumbing and wiring of other nations national affairs more than before.

Today, there is a greater need to extend in AAPSO to meet the new challenges which are been thrown up by new conditions. It should continue to act as a beaken light for all those people who want to build a better world of peace, solidarity, equality and humanity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

First Session

AAPSO In a Globalized Interdependent World

Chairperson: Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain

Excellencies,
Friends and Comrades,

I welcome all of you, specially the foreign delegates who had taken lot of effort to reach Cairo for this very important conference of AAPSO. Fifty years is a long time in a life of an individual. Looking around in the world one would see a complete changed environment. I could recollect the militancy of our youth fifty years ago when the entire Afro-Asian world was in a turmoil of anti-imperialist struggle to be free and emancipate from the clutches of backwardness, illiteracy, dependency and obscurantist ideologies.

When we step into "a tomorrow", we have to take stock of our achievements and failures. Our achievements have gone concurrently with the failures. But collecting together we have a wealth of experiences that would assist the new generation of activists. Those who come after us have to evolve a "new culture" to face the challenges confronting them. Although the world has moved enormously forward with new scientific and technological innovations, the benefits have been accrued mainly only by a minority. There is a long way to go if Africa and parts of Asia and Latin America to catch up with the tremendous development of the West. They have to use a "missile speed". It could be done if we choose the correct priorities. For example South East Asian

countries economies too were similar to the rest of Afro-Asian and suffered heavily under the Japanese war of aggression. But they took the correct initiative at the correct time to emerge as "strong economies" specially South Korea and Malaysia.

AAPSO was an outcome of Bandung conference the "spirit" which provided for a peoples movement to mobilise the people of the two continents to overthrow the imperialist yoke, which "was" and "is" a pernicious doctrine. President Sukarno when he welcomed the delegates to the conference in 1955 explained the nature of colonialism when he said "I beg you do not think of colonialism only in the classic form ... colonialism has also its modern dress, in the form of economic control, intellectual control, actual physical control by a small and alien community within a nation. It is a skillful and determined enemy, and it appears in many guises ... . Whenever, wherever and however it appears, colonialism is an evil thing, and one which must be eradicated from the earth". His words were prophetic that after fifty three years, the world is experiencing the worse phase of colonialism.

Today the economic invasion is rampant. The wealthy countries are not only controlling information technology, the media and the capital, they also control the minds of the population. Globalisation increased after the end of cold war and collapse of the Soviet Union. With this the world entered into a new debate, when the relevance of Non-aligned Movement was challenged and insistence on unipolarity as against multipolarity. This unipolarity doctrine was enunciated by those who spoke about the "end of history" and consolidation of the hegemony of one nation. But we have seen that the U.S. attempt to seek unilateralism faced huge challenges and opposition even particularly on war on terror and failure in Afghanistan and Iraq. The United States and NATO powers are entrenched and unable to extricate themselves from their adventure in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their economies are feeling the "heat".

Iraq is the biggest tragedy that Bush gave as a "present" to the world in the passing years of the 20th century. AAPSO's principle position against American strategy in the Middle East was clear since the beginning of the war. This tragedy had its impact on the neighbouring Arab and Islamic countries when over thousands of refugees started fleeing the American onslaught to escape from death. Many of the Iraqi people who suffered under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam, left their home country. With the American invasion and near civil war situation this number increased and today number of refugees in Syria, Jordan and Iran has reached 2.1 million. In addition there are thousands of internal migrants away from major cities without proper shelter. The arrogance and audacity of the U.S. has no end, when the U.S. senate decided to pass a resolution on the "partition of Iraq" as it was proposed by Senator Joseph Biden. According to this resolution Iraq would be divided into three sectarian and ethnic entities.

Since its invasion by the United States in 2003, Iraq has been going through one of its most difficult phases in its entire history, as a result of the destruction caused by the occupation, the never ending cycle of bloody violence and the failure of the political process to rebuild both its state and its society.

Undoubtedly, the United Nations and its agencies are fully aware of the tremendous catastrophe inflicted on the country, which now threaten the lives of millions of Iraqis with unimaginable human costs and the very existence of their nation, which has already disintegrated into sectarian and ethnical cantons. Such developments will also have dire consequences on security and peace in the entire Middle East and the world at large.

The main reason behind the failure of the process of rebuilding Iraq is the monopoly imposed by the administration of the occupation and the political forces which it brought into power. It was their haste to impose their enterprises and the exclusion of all of the vital forces in the Iraqi society that has triggered the cycle of

violence and terror and impeded a national accord among Iraqis.

The presence of tens of thousands of American soldiers, who are considered as an occupation force by Iraqis, the stubbornness of the dominating political forces and their opposition to a creative solution and the continuation of the adverse interference by some of the neighboring countries, all pose serious dangers and will further deepen the deadlock in the political process and eventually lead to the end of the state and society in Iraq.

Although the world is moving towards Multipolarity, the hegemonistic unilateralistic approach of the U.S. has intensified the conflicts around the world under the garb of "war on terror". Both in the case of Afghanistan and invasion of Iraq, the situation in these countries not only worsened, but had spilled over to neighbouring countries. In a report issued by the Atlantic Council of the United States on 30 January chaired by retired General James Jones it said "Make no mistake, NATO is not winning in Afghanistan". According to well-known journalist Eric Walberg, Afghanistan is a classic case of blowback. "With the decision to expand NATO and use it as its proxy in illegal invasions after the collapse of the Soviet Union -" notably Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and again Iraq -" instead of dissolving it, the West is merely reaping its whirlwind in the form of unending war and now internal squabbles".

The policy of invasion has no end. After the fiasco in Afghanistan and Iraq; the U.S. is contemplating invasion of Iran under a dubious propaganda of possession of Nuclear weapons despite the intelligent report of the U.S. to the contrary. Iran has proclaimed from the very inception that their nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes particularly of generating electricity. Iran is a signatory to NPT and their programme is in conformity with IAEA guidelines. Despite wide opposition, U.S. continue to escalate confrontation with Iran. Whereas, the U.S. entered into an agreement with India a country which did not sign the NPT

violating the NPT purely for subjective reasons of getting India for large commercial dealing of selling U.S. reactors.

All the global policy of these destabilisation has serious negative effect in Somalia, Darfur (Sudan), Palestine, and in Lebanon where there is a serious civil conflict. In the case of Palestine, despite pronouncements of road maps, and lately the Annapolis conference, the situation in the occupied territories have come down to square one. In the name fighting "Hamas terrorism", Israel is engaged in state terrorism and use most sophisticated weaponry against Palestinian children, women and old people including destruction of house and property. It is an unfortunate tragedy that the Palestinians venture to fight each other rather than the common enemy.

As a result collision between Hamas and Fathah turned the Gaza to horrible slaughter between Palestinians. The civil society need to mobilise to pressure the Palestinians to close their ranks and unite in their struggle for their inalienable land and state. The world is flabbergasted by the lukewarm attitude of the European Union, who still cannot extricate from U.S. hegemony to enunciate an independent policy even for the suffering Palestinians.

In mentioning the above hot spots, it is the earnest desire of AAPSO that need for mobilisation of the widest possible civil society movements to interact and change this genocidal approach of the U.S. and Israel. In this connection I wish to mention the conference held in Hanoi on South-South Solidarity with AAPSO's participation for expanding the solidarity activities. I take this opportunity in this fiftieth anniversary meeting to appeal to all our friendly organisations that we need more close cooperation to assert the rights of the people to live a life of peace and progress.

The new dimension in the situation of the world is the rise of economic powers such as China, India, Russia and emerging Latin America. The U.S. arrogance of power had led to its own

weakening. With the dissolution of Warsaw pact, U.S. and others pursuing the policy of expanding the NATO towards the east motivated by controlling the emerging powers in Eurasia. But already the fissures of cracks in the NATO is already visible when some of the European countries are considering withdrawing their troops from Afghanistan. On the other hand, the Shanghai group of countries are consolidating with Afghanistan and Iran attending the last summit as observers, and India alerted its desire to join the group.

The 13th summit of the Non-aligned Movement was held in Kula Lumpur with a clarion call for revitalization of the movement. Its plan of action included intensifying South-South cooperation with specific targets and projects. The convening of the Afro-Asian Sub-regional organization conference (AARSOC) is a positive development in this direction. The first AARSOC meeting was held in Bandung on 28 and 30 July 2003 hosted by Her Excellency President Megawathie Soekarnoputri and His Excellency President Tabo Mbeki. The conference of AASROC ministerial working group meeting was held in Durban, South Africa on 24th March 2004. Both these meetings have recognized the importance of "promoting participation of civil society in business sector, particularly micro and medium sized enterprises including "people to people interaction".

AAPSO had attended all NAM summits and whenever possible in the NAM ministerial meetings where the voice of the peoples movements in these gatherings are aired through our interventions. The 14th NAM summit held in Havana, Cuba was significant for AAPSO since it had helped the AAPSO to get an insight into the political development in Latin America. Owing to AAPSO's observer status with the NAM although AAPSO has the privelege of attending the summits and ministerial meetings, nevertheless our interactions were limited. In fact if NAM is to strengthen its activities, it should allow more civil society

participation of which we have alerted regularly. In this connection the NAM conference on cultural diversity held in Tehran last September discussed in length the interaction of different cultures where AAPSO participated and contributed.

The remedies that powerful Western Countries prescribe for the solutions of the problems in the developing world end up in chaos and disarray. As a result more disunity and fragmentation of national states have emerged among many countries. This is what we see in the countries of Middle East, Africa and Asia. It leads to more suspicious and inter state conflicts. Efforts have to be made by the civil society to enhance and consolidate national state and also the sovereignty. It is more felt today when the world is undergoing an energy crisis. In finding an alternative energy resources, the developing countries need to put their head together rather than depending totally on developed countries alone. In this connection our organisation appreciate the ongoing contact between Brazil, South Africa and India. All three countries have stronger economies in relation to other developing countries and are capable of assisting the more poorer nations. IT industry is more developed in India and similarly both South Africa and Brazil are industrially advanced. Cuba despite enormous hardship has improved the training of large scale medical doctors, who are sent to needy countries in the South. There are 20,000 medical doctors working in the health sector of Venezuela. The Latin American project of closing their ranks to help each other is drawing the attention of the world. With Venezuelaâ?™s huge income from petrol, a new South American Bank is created as against depending on World Bank and IMF. We hope that civil society organisations and movements to continue to pressure the rest of South countries for such ventures as perceived by the Latin Americans.

We cannot only blame the developed countries for our own failures. Looking inwards towards our own countries, we

encounter impediments and obstacles such as corruption, family bandyism, enormous wastage of resources and persistence negligence in our performances. All these have to be rectified with good governance, transparency, devotion to work and commitment for the cause. In a number of developing countries, democracy is still a far cry which lead to more sectarianism and terrorism.

Today the world order is based on the big economies of the so called "group of seven". It is their philosophy that they wish the rest of the world to follow. They are beautifully prescribed with "sugar coated pills" and proclaim as the "international community". But the world need to be aware of this so called "international community" which is nothing but the same old colonial remedy with new label. As a result the poverty is increasing in the developing countries. Educational facilities are curtailed and more and more poor countries feel the difficulty of sending children to school. Thereby child labour increases with sex crimes and diseases such as "AIDS". On the other hand children are recruited by war lords for their battles to control narcotics and drug trade, providing more conflicts among nations to go backward rather than forward. In this 50th anniversary, I appeal to all our friendly organisations to close ranks and redouble the activities to fight this crimes against humanity.

From what was mentioned, our movement now is working in new main domains; Globalisation presents opportunities, challenges and risks to the future and viability of developing countries. The process of globalisation and trade liberalization has produced uneven benefit among and within states and that the global economy has been characterised by slow and lopsided growth and instability. In its present form, globalisation perpetuates for even increases the marginalisation of developing countries. Therefore globalisation must be transformed into a positive form for change for all people benefiting a large number of

countries.

The revolution in information and communication technologies continue to change the world at a rapid speed and in a fundamental way, and has created a vast and widening digital divide between the developed and developing countries, which must be bridged if the latter are to benefit from the globalisation process.

The future could present as many challenges and opportunities as the past and our movement must continue to remain strong, cohesive and resilient in order to address them. The continued relevance and validity of our movement will depend, in large measure, on the unity and solidarity of each organisation and component as well as their ability to adapt to these changes. In this regard, the process of the revitalization of the Afro-Asian movement began many years ago and it should be given further inputs.

In conclusion we must work collectively in open mind and clear strategy. I wish you all great success in your endeavours.

Dr. Samandar Kalandarov*

Road of 50 Years Long

This modest house in Cairo on the coast of mighty Nile is well known far outside of Egypt and even outside of Africa. More than 50 years the headquarters of the democratic movement – of the Afro-Asian Peoples` Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) – Permanent Secretariat is situated here. It is connected by invisible strings with more than hundred national solidarity committees, political parties, public and governmental international organizations. This house was witness of numerous meetings and negotiations, conferences and seminars. The strategy and tactics of struggle for liberation of peoples oppressed by foreign enslavers, against racism and apartheid were worked out here. Representatives of national liberation movements, parties and organizations of many countries visited often this house. Among them the young leaders of the liberation struggle passed here the school of political solidarity. Many of them after achieving independence became leading figures in their countries.

This house is especially close and dear to me. I have spent here more than 20 years, working shoulder to shoulder with the colleagues on struggle for noble aims for liberation of peoples from colonial enslavement. I am proud of that also my efforts

*** AAPSO Deputy Secretary General.**

devoted to the great victory of people, achieved decay and liquidations of shameful colonial system.

Today, in commemorating the significance of the 50th anniversary of AAPSO's foundation, we recall in our memory, our comrades who struggled and who are not present now among us, who have sacrificed their lives to bring the happy future for people. Some of them were killed by hands of mean mercenaries, and of terrorists. We remember for ever names of Yuosef el Sebai, first leader of AAPSO, well known writer and state figure, of Abdurahman al Sharkawy, talented writer, Dr. Morad Ghaleb, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt,as well as fighters for freedom such as Che Guevara, Edward Mondlane, Ahmed Ben Barka and many others.

Years have passed. Tens of young independent states have appeared on the map of the planet on a place of colonies. Nevertheless, AAPSO even today preserves its importance and a tuality not less than in past as a factor uniting the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America with the aim of joint opposition to the challenges of the present. The progressive public of the world highly appreciates the role of AAPSO in consolidation of world democratic forces to prevent a threat of nuclear war, to settle regional conflicts. Coordinating the activity of more than 80 national solidarity organizations, AAPSO has convened numerous peaceful actions which, undoubtedly, are heard in all corners of the earth.

Since 1970, I was entrusted to represent the Soviet Committee of Solidarity of Asia and Africa countries. I felt the special responsibility as multimillion Soviet public was one of the most advanced and active detachments of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement. After the disintegration of Soviet Union, I am representing the successor of the Soviet committee - the Russian Society of Solidarity and Co-Operation of the Peoples of Asia and Africa (RSSCPAA). On the AAPSO Congress in Delhi I have been

elected as the AAPSO Deputy Secretary General.

The foreign policy of the USSR and Russia always remain on the humanistic position – on the establishments of social justice, democratic values, securing of equality between the states. USSR has rendered strong support to Vietnam in the struggle against USA aggression , helped people of Asia and Africa to achieve independence, against racism and apartheid. The problem of settlement in the Near-East was constantly considered by USSR and later by Russia as the prime problem to be solved fast and on justice way. Soviet Union and Russia were and remain true friend to people defending peace, justice, democracy and security on the earth.

Russia and Soviet Union never were colonial empires. Soviet Union has spent huge efforts to raise the living level of the poorest people of the southern region, such as the states of the Central Asia, Caucasus. For the short historical period they have grown from backward feudal states to the highly developed republics surpassing on many economic and cultural parameters the advanced countries of the Western Europe.

For example, Republic of Uzbekistan, I am originated from. Before the Great October socialist revolution there were here few elementary schools, and the industry consisted from small oil factories. During the Soviet power, hundreds of modern schools, hospitals, more than 40 high schools were created in this Central Asia Republic. The Academy of Sciences effectively functions in Uzbekistan. Here was created one of the first in the world Scientific Research Institute of nuclear physics with the synchrophasotron. Tens of industrial enterprises equipped by the most advanced machines are constructed here. The Republic began to produce tractors, various machines, and passenger and cargo airplanes. Now, the Republic is producing gold, oil, gas, metal. The agriculture reached an intensive development. Millions tons of cotton, a plenty of wheat, rice, vegetables and fruit are

annually grown up here. The Republic has an opera and ballet theatre, many drama theatres. Uzbekistan today is the independent subject of the international relations.

The similar transition from backwardness to the modern civilized lives has made former Soviet Asian and Caucasian republics - Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Turkministrant, Azerbaijan and others.

In this connection, it would be possible to interpret the disintegration of the Soviet Union from a new point of view. Namely, to not dramatize too much this event. It can be considered not as a tragedy and disorder of superpower, but as the natural process of transition, certain by history, to a new higher stage of independent development. It is logical process of self-determination of the nations which have reached high political and economic stability. Russia has helped them to rise firmly on legs and now left them for independent development. This reflected the practical continuation of international traditions of Russia and the USSR.

Soviet Union always acted in the forefront struggle against colonialism and racism. The USSR per 1960 has proposed in the United Nations Organization the project of the Declaration on granting independence to the colonial countries and people and insisted on the adoption of the UN resolution on liquidation of foreign military bases on colonial territories. USSR and Russia always rendered huge and often disinterested support and help to the developing countries and people. They constructed by means of Soviet Union in the Arab Republic of Egypt Aswan High Dam, an aluminum factory in Naghamady, the Heluan metallurgical combine, erected in India Bhilay metallurgical complex and many other industrial subjects in the countries of Asia and Africa are well known in the world.

Russia like the USSR before very interested in the prompt restoration and a deepening political, economic, cultural and other

interrelations with the Afro-Asian world.

The public of the USSR on behalf of the Soviet solidarity committee was one of the most dynamic participants of the international Afro-Asian solidarity movement.The committee has used to receive in the USSR hundreds of delegations from the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Annually conferences, multilateral meetings, scientific symposiums on vital topics of developing countries were convened with their participation. These actions, sometimes, took place in the Soviet republics of the central Asia and Caucasus where foreign participants simultaneously could get acquainted particularly with a wide experience of solving economic, political, and cultural and other problems. Soviet and now Russian Solidarity Committees rendered and renders to the people of developing countries not only morally and political help, but also material support. The Soviet Committee of Solidarity paid big attention to preparation of young professionals in developing countries. Thousand free-of-charge scholarships for studying in high schools of the USSR annually were granted to these countries.

The Soviet Solidarity Committee regularly contributed great annual payments to the AAPSO budget and with numerous aviation tickets.

After some decrease in activity during the post Soviet period the successor of the Soviet Solidarity Committee - the Russian Society of Solidarity and Cooperation of People of Asia and Africa renews the foreign policy and organizational activity. It started the regular exchange of delegations for discussion of actual problems of the present and for exchange of experience. Free-of-charge grants are again given to the young generation of third world countries. Russian Society arranging meetings, seminars concerning, Afro-Asian problems.

In December 2006, the international conference, devoted to the 50 anniversary of the Soviet Solidarity Committee took place

in Moscow. Delegations from foreign countries have taken part in it, including the delegation from AAPSO led by AAPSO President Dr. Morad Ghaleb.

Thus, the Russian public increasing its participation in the Afro-Asian solidarity movement, deeply understanding its historical value for the destinies of the people of developing countries, for all peace-loving mankind.

AAPSO passed a long way of 50 years, marked by a historical victory – utter defeat of colonial system. There is no doubt, that this international democratic movement will further serve for strengthening of unity and cooperation between people, for their prosperity, for peace and security in the world.

The solidarity movement still preserves inexhaustible potential for the international coordination of interaction of efforts of developing countries in the sanction of many problems facing them. AAPSO always was and remains one of powerful cores of integration processes, promoting the world social and economic progress directed on radical reorganization of international relations, counteraction of expansions.

Mission of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement does not come to an end with liquidation of colonial system. It has still to assist to strengthening of independence of the young states, to growth of their economy, to effectively oppose to the continuous attempts of the West with new colonial methods to exploit raw materials and manpower resources of developing countries. Quite often West with this purpose try to use power actions as it happened with occupation of Iraq by United States.

Ahead it is a lot of work. One of mainstreams of the activity of the AAPSO Permanent Secretariat should become a wide popularization of importance of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement today. AAPSO for example still poorly uses its unique reserves - possession of the observer status in the United Nations, League of the Arab States, UNESCO, Movement of

Non-alignment etc. The other international public forums have not such seldom opportunity. Participation of AAPSO delegations in the international meetings of these authoritative world structures is especially important. It opens rare opportunity to meet with leaders of the Afro-Asian states to negotiate with them in order to precise the present main problems of developing countries, to consult regarding the best way to adopt the AAPSO program to the rapidly changing geopolitical situation in the world and to request these leaders to give political and material support for the solidarity movement.

Mr. Pham Van Chuong*

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express, on this happy occasion of the 50th foundation anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), the profound gratitude of the people of Vietnam to AAPSO, its member organizations, and its Cairo-based Secretariat in particular, for their solidarity and support over the past half-century, especially during the hard years of our struggle for national independence and reunification.

Throughout the past 50 years, AAPSO has made tireless efforts in initiating and mobilizing international solidarity with and among the peoples of Asia and Africa struggling for national independence and freedom. It has helped enhance the awareness of Asian and African peoples about ways and means to free themselves from colonialism and imperialism, and promote the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Born at a time when most of Asia and Africa were colonies or semicolonies, AAPSO has grown to witness one after another victory of Asian and African nations, to whose triumph over colonial rule it has brought valuable contributions. All of us can take pride in the role it has played, not only in Asia, Africa and the Non-Aligned

*** President of Vietnam Committee for Asian-African-Latin American Solidarity and Cooperation.**

Movement but also on the international arena as a whole.

But, what role is AAPSO going to play, and what could we do now that, while most former colonies have gained back national independence, nations and states, big and small, are becoming increasingly interdependent in a globalized (or globalizing) world. Allow me to venture a few ideas.

Firstly, AAPSO and its member organizations could continue enlightening the peoples of Asia, Africa and elsewhere about the true colors of the regional and world pictures. Therein, on the one hand, many Third World countries, once colonized and underdeveloped, have scored great achievements in national development, thus consolidating their own independent while helping enhance peace and stability. Cooperation in various fields at the global, regional and sub-regional levels has contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of individual partners and shared progress alike. On the other hand, however, the costly arms race, especially in nuclear weapons, has been accelerated while, for many countries, resources and enabling environments for peaceful development are still lacking. Disputes and conflicts, ethnic and religious strifes, terrorism and "counter-terrorism", foreign interference and intervention, armed aggression and military occupation have shattered the aspirations of millions in Asia, Africa and elsewhere for a normal and secure life. Meanwhile, the ongoing process of globalization, economic globalization in the first place, has impoverished and marginalized many Third World countries.

In this process, interdependence does not involve equitable relations between equal players in a level playing field, but unequal relations between bigger, richer, stronger and more developed countries of the "core" on the one hand and smaller, poorer, weaker and less developed countries of the "periphery" on the other, where the rules of the game are imposed by the former on the latter. Interdependence therefore means different things to

different countries.

Secondly, AAPSO and its member organizations could help enhance the awareness of Asian and African peoples about ways and means to benefit from development opportunities offered and overcome challenges posed by globalization. In this connection, it should be noted that, for developing and less developed countries, such opportunities and challenges usually appear as potentialities and whether or not would they become realities depends largely on the subjective factors in each country. It should also be emphasized that each country has the sovereign right to determine its own development priorities and strategies, and that any conditionality in the provision of development assistance should be combated. Each country also has the right and obligation to evaluate the trade-off between accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space, and to take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments.

Thirdly, AAPSO and its member organizations should help revitalize the Bandung spirit and promote South-South solidarity and cooperation in the current conditions of a changed and still rapidly changing world. This would involve upholding of the founding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, notably: respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations; recognition of the equality of all nations, large and small; abstention from interference or intervention in the internal affairs of another country; peaceful settlement of international disputes; promotion of mutual interests and cooperation. In terms of activity, this could involve events co-sponsored with AAPSO affiliates or newly emerging civil society organizations. The massive and fruitful participation of AAPSO member and friendly organizations in the World Social Forums are encouraging examples.

International developments since the late 1980s have dealt a

hard blow to the Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity movement, but failed to invalidate its spirit. Now that Asian and African nations are facing new and enormous challenges, we do believe that Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity is to be promoted, and AAPSO, having entered its 51st year, will continue playing a leading role.

Mr. Zhu Dacheng*

Making Effective Efforts to Advance Economic Globalization in The Direction of Balanced Development, Shared Benefits and Win-win Progress

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

The CPAPD delegation is very pleased to be invited to attend the commemorative activities for the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO and the international conference entitled "AAPSO in a Globalized Independent World ". Please allow me to - extend our warm congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the formal inauguration of AAPSO.

Fifty years ago, the founding of AAPSO marked a historic step of the Afro-Asian countries and peoples on the road to national liberation and unity. The past half century has witnessed AAPSO's active contributions to strengthening the unity of the Afro-Asian peoples in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism. While upholding its founding principles, AAPSO rallied and strengthened the Afro-Asian peoples' struggles against imperialism, colonialism, racialism, Zionism and fascism, and has promoted their independence, self-reliance and economic, social and cultural progress. In recent years, AAPSO has kept up with

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the times, and made positive contributions to maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and the whole world, to promoting unity among countries in Africa and the Arab world, to opposing hegemonism, power politics, arms race and international terrorism, to safeguarding the rights of the developing countries, and to their economic and social development. As an important international organization with many member organizations in various countries including in Africa, Asia, Europe and America, AAPSO is now playing an in important role. China was one of the founding members of AAPSO and actively participated in its activities. We enjoy profound traditional friendship with AAPSO and the two sides have developed a since and friendly relationship of mutual respect, mutual support and treating each other on an equal footing. Last year, the AAPSO delegation led by Secretary General Nouri Hussain paid a successful visit to China. In the past, China has unswervingly supported the Afro-Asian peoples in their struggle for national independence and liberation. Now, we will as always support their unremitting efforts for peace, development and cooperation.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

We greatly appreciate that APPSO has made such a considerate arrangement for holding this important conference. The theme of the conference "A Globalized Independent World" accurately reflects the current reality of international developments and is most appropriate. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of our views and ideas regarding the basic situation of the current economic globalization and its trend of development.

The world today is experiencing unprecedented historic changes. One of its important features is the rapid development of economic globalization. On the one hand, economic globalization has generated vitality in the world, with enhanced interaction and interdependence among countries. On the other hand, economic

globalization has brought about great challenges. In the globalized world, we have witnessed unbalanced economic development, deepened digital gap, widening disparity between the South and North, more poor people, polarization between the rich and the poor, the intensified conflict between man and nature and the marginalisation of some countries. The global issues such as terrorism, environmental pollution, natural disasters, and epidemic diseases have become more evident, arousing deep concern over the course of globalization. When it is realized that globalization is a general trend which can not be overturned, then there are serious questions confronting countries in the world, i.e. how to guide the direction of economic globalization? How to make the 21st century a century with everyone enjoying development? How to advance economic globalization towards the direction of balanced development, shared benefit and win-win progress.

The following are the views we would like to express:

I. Constant efforts should be made to promote a globalization of common prosperity and win-win progress.

According to the annual report by the World Watch Institute, the one fifth of the world richest population controls 84.7% of the global social production, 84.2% of international trade and 85.5% of the domestic savings in the world. Since 1960, the gap between the richest and the poorest has been doubled, and the development aid which used to be labeled equitable development has become lip-service. The 2007 UN MDGs report pointed out that from 2005 to 2006, the official aid of developed countries to Africa decreased by 5.1 % over the previous year. Right now, there are 2.5 billion people living on less than 2 US dollars a day. They constitute 40% of the world population, but only possess 5% of the total world income. The 10% richest hold 54% of the total world income. Without universal development and common prosperity, the world can hardly enjoy harmony and peace. The 21st century should become a century with everyone enjoying

development. To this end,

* We should actively promote the establishment of an open, equitable, non-discriminative multilateral trade mechanism, which will enable all the countries especially the developing countries to enjoy the benefits.

* We should work hard to solve the problem of unbalanced development, eliminate poverty, actively promote regional and global economic cooperation, and make the development of globalization in the direction of common prosperity for all countries.

* We should pay more attention and respond actively to the strong call for the establishment of a just and rational new international economic order. Up to now, the formulation of most of the relevant "standards" and "rules" about globalization are dominated by the developed countries who hardly consider the legitimate concern of the developing countries. The developed countries should take more responsibility in realizing a universal, coordinated and balanced development throughout the world, which will benefit all countries particularly the developing countries other than making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

* We should vigorously encourage all round cooperation of mutual benefit in different areas, stick to the development strategy of drawing on each other's strengths to realize mutual benefits and win-win progress, and promote the sharing of the benefits of economic globalization, scientific and technological progress for universal prosperity of the world.

* We should actively work for a multi-polar world, advocate democracy in international relations and the diversity of development models. We uphold that countries, big or small, rich or poor are all equal, peoples in different countries have the rights to choose their social system and development path independently, countries should participate in the international affairs on an equal footing. We should commit ourselves to

deepening economic cooperation to enable everyone to enjoy equal opportunity and rights to pursue overall development.

* We should enhance dialogue and coordination among countries on issues of macroeconomic policies, the world economic development and their common interests. We should enhance international cooperation, build the capability of the international community in preventing and responding to crises and in maintaining global economic stability and development.

* We should promote dialogue between the South and North, and gradually establish a new long-term partnership of South-North cooperation.

* We should optimize the development aid mechanism, encourage more development resources to be transferred to developing countries. Effective methods should be adopted to implement the UN MDGs to motivate the developing countries to extricate themselves from difficulties and accelerate their development. The developed countries should further open their markets, transfer their technology, increase their aid to the developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted and the least developed countries, and exempt their debts.

II. As a developing country, China has been unswervingly following the path of peaceful development, carrying out a win-win strategy of opening up and mutual benefit, working hard to realize peaceful development, open development, cooperative development, scientific development and harmonious development, and making efforts to advance economic globalization in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress.

* The development strategy of a country is closely related to its views on what kind of a world order to be established and what kind of development road to be taken. As friends present are interested in China's development, I would take the opportunity to share with you the following views. As the largest developing

country, China will unswervingly follow a win-win strategy of opening up. We will continue to contribute to regional and global development through our own development, and expand the areas where our interests meet with those of various sides. While securing our own development, we will accommodate the legitimate concerns of other countries, especially other developing countries. We will increase market access in accordance with internationally recognized economic and trade rules, and protect the rights and interests of our partners in accordance with law. We support international efforts to help developing countries enhance their capacity for independent development and improve the lives of their people, so as to narrow the North-South gap. We support efforts to improve international trade and financial systems, advance the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and properly resolve economic and trade frictions through consultation and collaboration. China will never seek benefits for itself at the expense of other countries or shift its troubles onto others.

* **To follow a win-win strategy of opening up means that China will realize its development through opening up and at the same time will promote regional and global common development though its own development.** A win-win strategy of opening up is in line with the right concept and trend of times which feature the pursuing of cooperation for mutual benefit and the realization of common prosperity against the background of economic globalization. This is a positive concept of opening up, which is conducive to expanding the areas where China's interests meet with those of various sides. A win-win solution in international exchanges can benefit all sides. To advance economic globalization in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress, we must adopt the concept of equality, cooperation and win-win approach, improve the rules and systems of international economy and trade, safeguard the

legitimate rights of the developing countries and promote the development of a just and rational international economic order. We must discard trade protectionism and the practice of double standards, properly handle economic and trade frictions through consultation, and oppose economic sanctions or the threat to apply them.

* **To follow a win-win strategy of opening up is an important experience of the successful practice of China's reform and opening up, which is in conformity with the basic interests of the Chinese people and the common interest of the world people at large.** Over the past 30 years, we have acquired an important experience for our sustained and rapid economic and social development, that is to stick to the win-win strategy of opening up, take the initiative to meet the challenges of economic globalization, and continuously expand the scale, depth and strength of opening up to the outside world. Through opening up, China has realized its own development and provided opportunities for the development of other countries. Both Chinese people and the people in the world have benefited from common development. With further development of our economy, China's market size and scale of investment will naturally be further expanded, which will generate more opportunities for the world.

* **To follow a win-win strategy of opening up is the strategic requirement of our long term development, which is in accordance with the inherent nature of socialism with Chinese characteristics.** Socialism with Chinese characteristics is open socialism, whose development is based on the assimilation of achievements of all human civilizations. As a developing country, China has always adhered to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world, uphold the basic principle of combining "go global" and "bring in". We have not only made efforts to expand opening up to the outside world, but also attract overseas capital and personnel to China through creating a

favorable environment for investment and development, and encourage our enterprises and personnel to "go global" and promote economic and social development in other regions by utilizing our own experiences and strengths. We advocate that the international community should help developing countries to develop their economy, and provide aid within our power to the developing countries. China has never and will never seek to maximize its unilateral interests, and will never seek its own interests at the expense of the benefits of others or shift its trouble onto others.

* **To follow a win-win strategy of opening up is an inevitable option to follow the path of peaceful development, which will help to enhance the forces for safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.** China has persisted in achieving its development by safeguarding world peace and in safeguarding world peace through its own development. China's new development model featuring peaceful development is imbued with the spirit of mutual benefit and win-win progress, which is a great contribution to peace and development of mankind.

III. China has set a good example by making unremitting efforts to advance economic globalization of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress, a concrete action to actively promote the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. We must recognize that the unjust globalization has caused disharmony in the world. Under the irrational international economic order, the developing countries lack capital, carry heavy debt burden and are backward in terms of technology. The worsening trade conditions and increasing financial risks have put the developing countries in a much unfavorable position. The widening gap between the rich and the poor has made the people in the developing countries quite despair, whose grievances may

generate antagonistic feelings and may be taken advantage of by terrorism. Economic globalization is developing in depth, bringing the world into a period of frequent trade frictions. The developed countries who used to be at the high-end of globalization and had benefited from it started to resist globalization. The steps of the 60-year long multilateral trade talks stopped at Doha. This was a serious retrogress of the liberalization of global trade. In addition, local wars and conflicts keep emerging, regional hotspot issues are interwoven, terrorist forces are still rampant, and global issues such as environmental pollution, transnational crimes and serious epidemic diseases have become more acute. The gap between the South and North has been further widened. According to statistics from the UN, in the present world, 850 million people are going hungry, 180,000 children die of hunger and malnutrition each day, and the income of the 500 top rich has surpassed the total income of 416 million poorest people. How can a world of being so unjust and unfair enjoy harmony?

* Facing such a disharmonious world, the Chinese people, proceeding from the basic interests of the world people, advocate that people of all countries should join hands and strive to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. To this end, all countries should uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charters, observe international law and universally recognized norms of international relations, and promote democracy, harmony, collaboration and win-win solutions in international relations. Politically, all countries should respect each other and conduct consultations on an equal footing in a common endeavor to promote democracy in international relations. Economically, they should cooperate with each other, draw on each other's strengths and work together to advance economic globalization in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress. Culturally, they should learn from each other in the spirit of seeking common ground

while shelving differences, respect the diversity of the world, and make joint efforts to advance human civilization. In the area of security, they should trust each other, strengthen cooperation, settle international disputes by peaceful means rather than by war, and work together to safeguard peace and stability in the world. On environmental issues, they should assist and cooperate with each other in concerted efforts to take good care of the Earth, the only home of human beings.

* **China has always taken practical actions to promote the establishment of a "harmonious border", "harmonious region" and "harmonious world", and played a constructive role and assumed its due responsibility in international affairs.** China has exempted African countries from over 10 billion US dollars debts. By now, China has participated in 18 UN peace-keeping operations, sent a total of more than 9000 person-time peace-keepers and has become the one who has sent the largest number of peace-keepers among the 5 Permanent Members of the Security Council. China has also provided aid to countries struck by natural disasters. China has maintained good cooperative relations with most countries, and played an important role in the international organizations including the UN. China is playing a crucial role in the reform of the UN, the 6-party talks on the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula, the regional cooperation in East Asia, the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue of Iran, the Shanghai Organization of Cooperation, and in areas such as anti-terrorism and non-proliferation. China is a participant, coordinator and builder of the world system.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

In the long history of mankind, the destiny of the people of all countries has never been so closely interrelated. We ally with one another for the common objectives, and we unite with one another

to meet common challenges. In this historic period of both opportunities and challenges, as long as people of all countries closely unite with one another, seize the opportunities and work together to meet the challenges, economic globalization will develop in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress, thus laying a solid economic foundation for the realization of a world of lasting peace and common prosperity. We sincerely hope that people in different countries can live under the same blue sky enjoying freedom, equality, harmony and happiness, sharing the achievements of peace and development on the Earth, the common home of mankind.

The last but not the least, I would like once again to express our congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the formal inauguration of AAPSO! Wish the conference a great success.

Thank you!

Mr. Helmi Sha'rawi*

Rise... Encumbrances... And Future Prospects**

It was a different world, that of 1958, when the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) was established in Cairo. The "Bandung spirit" was generously conferring its special flavour on the movements of popular governments and organizations, even shaping the aspirations of many peoples who sought out freedom after World War II. Thus, recollecting the mechanisms of that period, and looking forward to an innovative role of Afro-Asian peoples' organizations, is worth reflecting. The following lines represent a relevant attempt:

1. Circumstances surrounding the launch of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement.
2. Popular Bandung: the rise and fall.
3. The situation: vistas on the three continents.
4. A vision for saving the Peoples' Solidarity Movement.

First: Recollections: The Launch of the Solidarity Movement

We were groups of youth at Cairo University in the last week of December 1957, when we found the University Guard, staff and other forces, last-minute preparing the Cairo University Hall, famous for holding conferences, for "a big international conference" they said. The Conference of the Afro-Asian Peoples'

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**** Tranlated by: Dr. Iman Shakeeb.**

Solidarity was held on the 26th of December 1957- January 1958. Some of the rooms and restaurants of the Students' Hostel were prepared for serving the guests of the conference. Some of university youth, following the Tripartite Aggression on Egypt 1956, had geared their minds decisively towards the Arab unity movement, which they felt to be a protective and shrouding shield of the national regime in Egypt, the vanguard of Arab liberation, in their opinion. Other groups were advocating a mainstream leftist thinking that sees the Arab movement as necessarily part of a world liberation movement launched after WWII, demanding rights of the people to self-determination against colonization. Furthermore, it was thought that the Socialist Camp, standing fast with Egypt and other countries, was a support to the liberation movement that had acquired a world dimension; take the international socialist camp itself. Also, such alliance was thought to be the main safeguard of independence and comprehensive liberation.

At that time, I had joined a small society called "the African League" at Zamalek district. There, I discovered another whole world of young Somalis, Sudanese, Eritrean, Nigerians, Senegalese, Chadian and Ugandans, who came to learn in Egypt, circling around Egyptian elite of professors, journalists and diplomats, most important of whom was the man rarely-mentioned nowadays, the late Muhammad Abdel-Aziz Isaac.

I remember that the first seminar then was on a story in Newsweek about "Black Nationalism", i.e. Pan-Africanism, between the blacks in America and the African continent. The debate revolved then on how Egypt could belong to "the black nationalism", in that American sense, and that there must be a way to position Egypt in Pan-Africanism as central as it is in Pan-Arabism.

Then, I met Mr. Muhammad Fayeq, said to be assigned by Nasser to help affiliate to Pan-Africanism, particularly after

Nasser's return from the Bandung Conference- April 1955. Isaac was explaining to us that the first target- as African and Arab- was real independence and liberty. He added that this youth, learning in Egypt, will substantially contribute in this direction, then everybody can decide on the destiny of "unity"... that Egypt itself has to be liberated intellectually and politically so that it can contribute to that role. He, himself, was the one who translated Freedom of Thought, which was confiscated by Al-Azhar before the July Revolution. So, his vision encompassed both society and State alike. I knew, from Mr. Fayeq, through interviews with him that were published later, that Nasser returned from Bandung and discovered Asia. The atmosphere in the African League was to prepare for a conference encompassing the peoples of Asia and Africa alike, in Cairo, particularly after the return of many Egyptian youth and other Africans from the World Youth Forum in Moscow, where the role of Asian and African youth was specifically evident. Most of the African youth were among those who reached Cairo first.

Second: Popular Bandung: the Rise and Fall

For starters, there was Bandung and leaders: Nehru, Sukarno, Nasser and Chou en-Lai. The five principles of political and economic independence were articulated there in April 1955. Nasser's delegation, including 52 members, was the biggest delegation, even bigger than the host country Indonesia! This entails that there was a significant attention paid not only to Africa here, but also to Asia there. It seems that the leaders of this continent, Nehru and Chou en-Lai had discovered in turn Nasser... we all know how the case developed with them. However, let us move back to the African Arab youth in Cairo. We were reflecting on current affairs: Egypt defended itself using force, the people's right to own their wealth asserted by the nationalization of the Suez Canal, the revolution on the French possible in Algeria, already flaming in Chinese India and even in

Kikuyu mounts in Kenya, and the Gandhi's "Non-Violence" revolution erupted at the heart of the national counter-violence movement against colonial violence. That became the fate of youth reflections in Zamalek... or in the yard of Cairo University as it prepared for a comprehensive conference of African and Asian peoples.

We used to read as youth... and there were a number of professors who wrote for political education, and development awareness not just for singing the praises of the Media or cultural forums. We read just before the Cairo Conference the book of Muhammad Anis, the national historian who dated for the idea of the Conference, paved the ground for the prior movement in Asian gatherings in particular, the idea of Asia for the Asians and Africa for the Africans and how they combined together in Bandung, in accordance with the five precepts of peaceful co-existence or "The Pancha Shila", elaborated by senior Asian leaders as principles of national sovereignty and respect of coexistence between Nehru's liberalism and Chou en-Lai's Marxism. Months before, we had read for Malik bin Nabi, the Algerian thinker, who published from Cairo, in Civilization Problems series, a book on "the idea of Afro-Asian", in light of the Bandung project. He attempted, in turn, to make of the Afro-Asian meeting a national and cultural renaissance for a new world in the face of the then current world of polarization.

As university students, we felt that the Egyptian thinking itself is taking major leaps in no time, from its narrow context within Egypt and Mission, by Hussein Mu'nis to new vistas. Even, the treatment of the Revolution's philosophy of "the three circles" seemed naïve before these new aspirations of worldwide national liberation. Furthermore, such aspiration was not the result of a national charisma, but a popular state opening to these new vistas, national and socialist. This state recognized a democratic character such as Nehru, who dispatched a large delegation, from

the Conference Party, to Egypt to discuss with Nasser the necessary materialization of Bandung into a popular movement, by establishing an organization that includes a group of civil and political organizations to stand for the solidarity of African and Asian people, to be headquartered in Cairo, with its middle position between both continents, in particular. Thus, the gathering witnessed at the lobbies of Cairo Universities attended by hundreds of Arab and Asian popular organizations and representatives of African liberation movements.

Reflecting on and relating the development of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Movement to the national liberation force, triggered by the 1950s and 1960s' youth, who revived it for long until it waned relatively as a result of the encroachment of imperialist globalization to suppress the peoples' movement, one can check how the AAPSO held most of its conferences subsequently- after Cairo on Africa's land- in Conakry 1961 after Guinea revolted against the French, then in Arusha, Tanzania 1963 with Tanzania's decision to adopt African liberation movements and the emergence of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and later in Winneba, Ghana 1965, as Nkrumah's battle against imperialism and monopolies flamed, and in Algeria 1984 with the rise of Boumediennism. It was not convened in Asia until 1988, now that tempestuous winds from the tigers had blown; in addition to the fragmentation even deterioration amongst the Socialist Camp. It was paralyzed since that time. Had it not been for the late Mourad Ghalib's vivacity, as much as he could master, in NAM conferences amidst discouraging Egyptian environment, we would not have heard of such organization except as many times as the youth of the old Guard would recollect, or for the activities of their standing secretariat in Cairo, in the circles of the forgotten World Peace Council, or in national committees, most important of which in India, so far, where most of the rest compete for barely gratifying morsels of these in their countries.

The memory of the first years of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Movement is still impinging.

We- the 1950s and 1960s youth- thought that the Afro-Asian rallying will be disbanded into fiercer regional and specific gatherings when it comes to the democratic and national liberation battle, particularly in Africa and the Arab world. However, seeing the results, I can say that the popular masses, who maintained the spirit of the Movement until its 7th Conference 1988, were mostly Asian, thanks to organizations there of a stronger democratic bent than the countries of national slogans in the Arab world and Africa. Preparing for the establishment of the Organization of African Unity 1963, regimes provided that all African people conferences must be halted, following their important meeting in Cairo 1961, when they declared war on neo-colonialism, including its mechanisms represented in Israel and affiliate governments. Therefore, it was dealt a blow with the first agreement to establish the Organization in Addis Ababa 1963! Similarly, it can be said that no major or minor Arab capital was host to a significant Afro-Asian or continental conference of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement. That is why the nationalists among us- not the democrats- celebrate the memories of 1964/1965 in Cairo. We, the offspring of the non-aligned, independent national liberation movement, cannot argue with pride the democrats if it were not for the incidents of 1964/65, with its major implications represented in conferences such as the Arab-African Summit, NAM, the Group of 77 and the Liberation Committee, in Dar al-Salam...etc.

What is the source of pride for the youth of that 60s period?

The youth of that period remember that Cairo invigorated a high struggling spirit in the national liberation movement, making it a head-quarter of more than 22 African liberation movements all over the Continent. It was open unto the world from Zamalek district, the directed broadcasts, and the foreign diplomatic corps

there made it a major source of concern, in addition to the multiple liberation movements that resulted in the imprisonment of Mandela, the assassinations of Dr. Moumie (Cameron), Mahmoud Harbi (Somalia), John Kale (Uganda), Mondlane (Mozambique) and even Cabral (Guinea Bissau).

Amidst these circumstances, the First Conference of the Organization of African Unity was held in Cairo 1964 (after being established in Addis 1963). The African regimes-reluctantly-recognized all these liberation movements, pledging financial and military support-as much as possible- from Dar al-Salam, Tanzania. This attested to the capacities of the countries of national liberation in pursuing the liberation process until the end of the 80s (South Africa). Within 2 years of that decade, the Arab Summit was held for the first time, in support of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which gave rise to Armed Struggle at the beginning of 1965. However, it was besieged with the attitudes of these Arab regimes that were not able to keep up with the OAU's collective commitment to armed struggle. In Cairo, the Non-Aligned Movement Summit was held, on trade and development, and gave rise to the Group of 77, whose designation as (UNCTAD) is a symbol of resisting greedy globalization even within the framework of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Cairo bolstered the convention of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference, at a wide mass level, Ghana 1965, in order to stop attempts to drive a wedge between both capitals, in an integral competition anyway, for the benefit of African liberation movements. It aimed also to induce Ghana out of its isolation to the African league movement. Nkrumah later issued his famous book, Neo-colonialism: the Last Stage of Imperialism, almost thought to be the last straw that broke the camel's back with the West, that assassinated him early 1966. In the summer of 1965, preparations were underway for the meeting of "the Bandung countries" again in Algeria while bin Bella was in a summit to push

Algeria on the way towards the idea of third world? However, internal rivalries prompted Boumedienne and Bu Taflika to topple him before the conference, to the disappointment of everyone and the hope to maintain the role of Algeria. Remarkably, during these preparations, Chou en-Lai visited Cairo on his way to troubled Algeria then, and so spent 10 days as Nasser's guest. Fayeq recounts how the Egyptian leader's relationship with him was cemented, in what seemed to be in balance with the Khrushchev's visit, or winning over China in Afro-Asian peoples movement and putting an end to the Chinese-Indian conflict. Cairo was also keen on maintaining balance between these two countries. History recorded how the Egyptian leadership backed India by supporting restoration of the Portuguese colony "Goa", a pocket in India, that is unworthy of its position in the Asian or world arenas. Egypt prevented the passage, through the Suez Canal, of Portuguese military forces, then, to India.

The conclusion, here, is that the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement had far-reaching impacts on the liberation movements even under government auspices. This provides it with a competitive edge over the African Unity Movement which often beleaguered these movements. Thus, the attendance of representatives of the liberation movements and the opposition sometimes, within the framework of Afro-Asian Solidarity, from Cairo until they all gained independence, was more significant than inter- governmental relation alone in other organizations. Within the framework of Afro-Asian solidarity, cultural and popular movements prospered, in addition to opening unto socialist countries, though the Soviet-Chinese conflict was heavy, realized not only on the African level- insofar as youth, women and writers are concerned. Unfortunately, it did not include workers' or farmers' movements, due to circumstances that might take long to explain insofar as the attendance of most liberation and socialist "countries" in the heart of this solidarity movement?

Third: the Situation: Vistas on the Three Continents

A vital question must be asked at this point: why the AASM did not reach Latin America, save for a first and last conference in January 1966? The question is raised here, not to address a basically documented historical issue, but the question remains to be addressed now more than ever before.

Personally, I am motivated by a special factor related to my high regard of the role of Mehdi Ben Barka who paid his life as price for attempting in that direction. Nobody continued his role afterwards. Reading the documents of the AASM, I was surprised to find contradictory or interesting attitudes worth reflecting upon. Talk of that idea began in 1961, then measures for actual implementation in the conference of solidarity in Arusha, Tanzania 1963. Castro himself attended in support of the idea and Mehdi Ben Barka put his weight 1964, when the declaration of the project was reaffirmed in Winneba, Ghana 1965. Later, Barka persistently moved between the Socialist bloc, China and Cairo, pressuring in order to stress the convention of the conference in Havana in January 1966. Interestingly, the committee assigned to follow up with Barka returned saying that Cuba itself was no longer enthusiastic as regards the integration of the whole Latin America group into the AAPSO, due to different approaches!

Even though it was concluded that the conference would be held and that another organization, Organization of Solidarity of the People of Asia, Africa & Latin America (OSPAAAL), of a nature compliant to the circumstances of violent Cuban relations in Latin America, there must be an explanation for the assassination of Ben Barka, before the convention of the conference in Havana, October 1965. Different interpretations would reveal various dimensions in the international stance. The American and European circles were afraid lest the spirit of Bandung be transferred to Latin America, on the hand of leaderships as vivacious as Barka if cooperated with Castro.

Therefore, the AASM had to be disrupted by the assassination of Ben Barka. There are various references to the impact of the Soviet politics in Latin America, being not ready then to rouse tensions with the US again, in addition to other references to the Soviet-Chinese conflict and effect, renewing the apprehension of each party lest the other dominate the new order. There were also fears everywhere of the spread of Guevaraism in Africa and Asia, already influential in Latin America and reaching Congo and the African South. Meanwhile, the Soviets sought to integrate representatives of Eastern Europe, semi-government representatives of the organization of formal designations. The less popular World Peace Council (WPC) also joined in turn, mindless of forming a bloc of countries in support of wriggling free of growing American influence.

The weaknesses in the structure of the organization persisted: the Chinese-Soviet conflict on one hand, the Indian-Chinese one on the other, the Arab-Zionist conflict clash with the results of the 1967 war and the third world Algerian diplomacy movement toward government... in addition to all the other blows dealt to the structure of the peoples movement in Africa and Asia. Here, the recollections of the 50s and 60s youth come to a halt, leaving the movement in deterioration. This was also helped by the policies of Sadat and allies since the 70s; he was the first president of the Organization 1958. The stance of the Indian Congress Party was also weakened. China began its transformations and so did the Soviet freeze that stifled the Union. The African liberation movements were transformed into governments incapable of economic, not to mention political, struggle.

A Vision for Saving the Peoples' Solidarity Movement

A new world wind is blowing now, calling upon fresh youth to ask different questions, present various answers and restructure this Organization. Let us give them a hand in the 50th anniversary of establishment with these queries so they can provide answers:

- The convention of the general conference of the Organization: the main constitution of the Organization provides that the general conference be held every two years. The Organization, according to this rule, has spent almost two decades without convening its general conference: it stopped since the 7th conference in Delhi 1988. It could not be understood why it stopped, particularly that the general secretariat is present and attempts self-reactivation, in one way or another, and so is the conflict in the different sham solidarity committees, on one occasion or another. The African and Asian elements are rallying circumstantially, some have been witnessed in Durban (The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance) and later, then in Vietnam lately. Disruptors of the general conference are those who fear change imposed by the era, or fear necessary expansion in the call, thus incur the wrath of this regime or others.

- Proposal to amend the constitution to facilitate the convention of the general conference: the constitution, in introduction and first Articles, prescribes something similar to mass mobilization for solidarity from "all progressive and democratic forces". However, when it comes to membership, even though stipulated that "mass organizations and political parties shall be included", it confined these in "a single organization" (Art. 3), i.e. one solidarity committee. In many cases, especially Arab ones, it is known how the semi-governmental committees have become inept regarding the establishment of a popular organization in an Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement. The old constitution (Art. 9) also confined the selection of a president of the Organization to the head-quarter country through the nomination by this country's committee. Thus, the presidency of such popular organization is more a nomination by the existing government than by the popular movement. Had it not been for the balanced diplomatic character of the late Morad Ghaleb, this Organization would have gone with the wind. Furthermore, if it had not been for the political parties

that maintained their strong solidarity spirit in Asia, the Organization could have been dead due to the unfathomable passive attitude of the African National Congress in South Africa or the persistent reluctance of organizations in Tanzania and Mali to participate.

An effective and real dialogue must be negotiated with popular and party circles in the People's Republic of China to re-attend the solidarity movement, insofar as the people of the South are concerned. Nobody has the right to keep it, at that distance, away from the Movement, now that it is expanding as a socio-economic order in the world. This has to remain on a popular dimension, otherwise it would turn into a neo-imperialism or a socialist imperialism as it used to propagate about the Soviets.

Reconsideration of declaring a unified organization for Asia, Africa and Latin America: the governing criterion should be the necessary rally of the counties and peoples of the South in the face of the rough globalization tide represented in the Davos group and the G8 summits...etc. Peoples of the South, however, also gather in Third World Forums, the World Social Forum and the World Energy Alternatives...etc, In addition to regional and continental popular forums or specific organizations (Women, jurists...etc). Thus, forms a base for a strong popular organization: the AAPSO or OSPAAAL, outside the current Organization rule in what is called solidarity committees, now semi-governmental.

In a general conference, of a truly popular character, of these organizations with the legacy of the AAPSO, a popular president can be elected, and so an anti-colonialist, anti-settlement, anti-imperialist globalization struggling secretariat that addresses existing actual challenges facing our people as regards new issues: agriculture and farmers, monopoly of industry, environment and health issues. In the end, a new concept of development integrated with economic and financial power available to many of the people of the South.

Integrating the power of Latin America into a world solidarity movement is a duty now that the development of AAPSO is being considered. Many are the centres of vision in Latin America, whether the OSPAAAL secretariat in Cuba liked it or not! Havana should remember that abundant water had crossed under the bridges of Puerto Alegre at the advent of the 21st century, and now across Caracas. No popular bureaucracy would dare, if I may put it that way, ignore that by adhering to its history or clinging to modest aspirations.

Mr. Ambassador Salem Qwatin*

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), recalling the efforts and contributions of Dr. Morad Ghaleb, which will always be cherished as an example to be followed suit.

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May peace and blessings of ALLAH be upon you

The league of Arab States attaches special significance to civil society on national, regional and international levels, as it has become a catalyst for development and welfare of communities.

All of us recognize the role that civil society can play towards realizing development, reconstruction and democracy, for it constitutes the third party beside the State and the private sector. All of us understand that no security, peace or development can be achieved in any society unless the three parties meet in synergy and conformity.

Believing in the significance of civil society organizations and

*** A speech of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab State-delivered by the Director of Civil Socity Department.**
- Translated By: Mr. Hassen Thabet

their impact on the development of societies, and that civil society is the vehicle of vigor and constant ability for growth and progress in all walks of life, the League of Arab States realizes that civil society can achieve the following objectives:

1. Providing support for the efforts of growth, development and reform in political, economic, social, cultural and other spheres.

2. Inculcating concepts of democracy and human rights through practice and implementation within the framework of civil society organizations.

3. Upgrading full co-operation and coordination among regional and international organizations towards establishing of an international civil society based on justice, equality and welfare for all.

This conference of AAPSO comes as a crucial step towards emphasizing these orientations that would ultimately deepen the sense of civil society and prepare grounds for further consolidations and alliances.

It is now clear that there is disequilibrium, if not a huge gap between North and South spheres, which gave room to the collapse of many entities and specificities by the huge tidal waves of globalization. The result was a creation of another type of globalization battling hard with its own ammunition to defend the causes and rights of the peoples of the South and the rest of the world.

True is the fact that there are causes of human nature that were globalized by the North, simply because they touch upon its security interests and civilian entities. To name but a few, there are the globalization of war against drugs and terrorism, the organized crime and the illegal migration. Yet, other serious issues of human, social and economic natures, and which touch upon a broad spectrum of nations and peoples, are not given due attention or are only recognized by the North in a degree that serves its own ends and gains.

The events taking place in Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan are a live testimony to the duality, selfishness and hegemony of globalization.

It is those pressing issues that must invoke co-operation and solidarity among the nations of the South, and more specifically among the organizations of civil society that should advocate such pressing issues in regional and international arenas.

This requires a consolidation of networks of communication with all regional and international circles to discuss issues of hunger, poverty, disease, manipulation, monopoly, predominance, foreign debts, legal and illegal refugees-related issues, money smuggling, crippled development and depleted environment which is polluted in most countries of the South.

All these pressing issues require coordination, co-operation and solidarity among the organizations of civil society in Africa and Asia in order to work hand-in-hand with the relevant regional and international organizations to put these issues under the spotlight in an attempt to find the solutions that could be followed up by the international community on a constant base. Also, partnership and co-operation could be achieved with western groups and organizations that renounce globalization, thus attaching an international dimension to efforts aiming at challenging current globalization.

Communication with men of thought, politicians and experts who attach importance to public causes in all domains, such as art, sports, media and culture in the western world also adds a qualitative value to the globalization of the South and gives impetus to the efforts of confronting selfish and aggressive globalization.

It is imperative that initiatives aiming at globalizing the causes of the South be adopted in order to defend the rights of the week before international organizations such as FAO, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, and regional social, economic

and legal commissions and entities in order to capitalize on the role these organizations can play.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through continuous mobilization against unfair and selfish globalization, and through this conference, we need a fundamental restructuring of the New World Order, a reduction of the hegemony of multinational companies and an achievement of a joint treatment for most of the problems suffered by the countries of the South and the rest of the world.

It is incumbent upon the leaders of the South and the private sector to shoulder their responsibility in parallel to the organizations of civil society; they need to coordinate their efforts together in order to agree on an approach and on an action program negotiable with the North.

The collective consciousness of African and Asian nations and the solidarity they can achieve through civil society organizations should create the perfect alternative that would help balance disturbed international relations. The discussion of legitimate, just and objective issues related to the southern sphere and the world in all forums and in media so as to be known to public opinion on local, regional and international levels is a positive exploitation of globalization, which could generate for us a new set of values to confront globalization with.

It can be safely said that developing concepts, renovating work mechanisms and benefiting from all channels of communication granted by globalization can put us on the right path towards realizing a defensive globalization to advocate the causes of African and Asian nations and other enfeebled nations in the world.

Finally, It is worth mentioning that the creation of a counter globalization, based on justice, respect for human rights and

holding the North responsible for the negative impact of unfair globalization on the South should mitigate the effect of ferocious globalization, weaken its ability to penetrate continents and cultures, and would ultimately provide counter globalization with legitimacy, support and momentum on basis of justice.

And at the end
May Peace and Blessings of ALLAH be upon you

Mr. Lakshman Bahadur K.C. *

Mr. Chairman and distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentleman,

On behalf of Nepal AAPSO I have the honour to express my warm greetings to all the distinguished participants who have assembled here in Cairo, the historic and beautiful capital city of Egypt to participate at the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Afro-Asian peoples' Solidarity Organization which is being held here from 26th to 28th Feb. 2008. I along with my four delegate members of Nepal AAPSO Mr. Gopal Pokharel Biwas, General Secretary, Mr. Rishi Subedi, Mr. Rajendra Man Singh and Mr. Kumar Gautam express our sincere gratitude to the AAPSO Permanent Secretariat for inviting us and giving opportunity to participate at the celebration of 50th anniversary of the AAPSO and present paper on the very important theme AAPSO in a globalized interdependent world.

It is indeed a moment of great happiness and pride for an organization to celebrate its golden jubilee in spite of many ups and downs. Nepal AAPSO has a privilege to be associated with the commemorative event of AAPSO.

As we know the first Afro Asian peoples' solidarity conference was held in Cairo, the capital city of Egypt, from 26th December

*** Vice-president of Nepal AAPSO.**

1957 to 1st January 1958. AAPSO is an independent and non governmental body based on the principles of Bandung and Non Alignment, comprising several national committees from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Since its formation, it has traveled a long way and the people of the world have witnessed radical changes in international relations. During these years, AAPSO has identified itself with the mass movement of the Afro-Asian and Latin American people who have waged their struggle relentlessly against colonialism, imperialism, racial discrimination, economic expansionism and for social economic progress, peace, democracy, human rights, development and disarmament around the world. AAPSO is a mass solidarity movement among and for the people of the continents of Africa and Asia in their common struggle for genuine independence, sovereignty, socioeconomic development for the establishment of just durable world peace, the safeguarding of the national and cultural characteristics of the Afro-Asian people and the democratization of the international relation. Based on the Bandung principles and the principles of Non Aligned Movement, which is an integral part of the world anti-imperialist movement, it conducts its activities in unity with all progressive and democratic forces in the world.

It is the first representative forum of the people of Asia and Africa in their struggle against colonialism in all its forms, new and old imperialism for economic revival, social progress, and consolidation of national sovereignty of the countries for peace, disarmament, democracy, and halt to the arms and nuclear race.

The organization provides a forum not only for Afro-Asian people but also for the Latin American people in their relentless campaign and efforts to defend and safeguard the independence and territorial integrity of their countries as also to extend the hand of solidarity and support to the national liberation movements around the world.

Though the colonial era is over and there is no cold war situation today, the world of 21st century is still not safe from the threat of intervention and war. The continuation of regional wars in many parts of the world, ethnic conflicts, rising poverty, environmental degradation, conventional and nuclear arms race, and terrorism affect the prospects of world peace, security, and questions, moreover, have been raised on the relevancy of the Non Aligned Movement in post-cold war era.

In such changing situation, the AAPSO movement faces a challenging task in any reorientation of the NAM principles.

AAPSO Nepal considers that it is not appropriate to raise questions of relevancy on the future of NAM and AAPSO as the world is still not safe from the dangers of war and intervention. There are numerous problems and challenges which must be tackled efficiently and effectively to make the world safe for people to live without fear and threat.

In this globalized interdependent world AAPSO can play an important and leading role in the promotion of world peace and mutual understanding by organizing international and regional programs which can immensely contribute to build up world opinion in favor of peace, democracy, human rights, and development.

What is necessarily required is to make AAPSO more active and dynamic in new context of globalization in order to make its programs more meaningful, fruitful and result oriented. First of all we should be very much clear about the concept of globalization. People have lived in a globalized world for many thousands of years. The early humans also maintained and developed long distance connections between one another through migration and trade. The important distinction between the early globalization and the present globalization is the fact that many of these long time relationships were relatively "thin" involving a small number of individuals. In contrast the present globalization can be viewed

as a process by which this web of global connections becomes increasingly "thick" creating and extensive and intensive web of relationships between many people across vast distances. In the twenty-first century, people are not only connected by overland routes they are directly participating in a vast and complex international network through travel, communication, business and education. Globalization is a system in which human beings are no longer part of isolated communities. Thus the entire human societies are now closely connected to global affairs. Globalization has broken down the distinction between international relations and domestic politics, making many aspects of domestic politics subject to global forces. One of the important aspects of present globalization process is internationalizing domestic issues and events which has rapidly helped to widen international connections.

The internet allows the rapid dissemination of news and ideas from every corner of the globe. Thus what happens in one place affects others around the world due to the rapid technological change.

Thus the globalization has made a great impact on the socio political and economic development of the world. We need more study to understand the impact of globalization in human lives. The question should be now asked that in present context how AAPSO as a non governmental organization can make influence on national and international actors for the promotion of democracy, good governances, cultural diversity and respect for human rights, eradication of religious, ethnic and sectarian fundamentalism, protection of environment, political stability and peace.

Thus besides its principle stand on major international issues the AAPSO now requires a new vision and dynamic role to play in the globalized world. This role must be directed towards achieving a new world a world of free of confrontation, free of hunger, free of

discrimination, free of oppression, free of terror and war. Thus making the world, a world of freedom, of justice and peace. Nepal AAPSO will welcome to work together to achieve the goal of new world.

Before I conclude I would like to draw your valuable attention on the recent political development in Nepal. The peace process in Nepal has been moving towards positive directions. The people of Nepal will cast their valuable votes on April 10th 2008 in order to constitute Constitution Assembly. The elected Constitution Assembly will be entrusted to frame the country's permanent constitution which is expected to reflect and institutionalise the people's aspirations or establishing new political set up based on democratic republic, peace and development.

Nepal AAPSO expresses its deep sorrow and condolence and pay homage on the sad demise of AAPSO chairman Dr. Morad Ghaleb. We cannot forget his great contribution to the promotion of AAPSO movement, its values and ideals. We still have fresh memory of his last visit in Nepal in Jan. 2002. He was very much delighted to see Nepal and Mt. Everest.

Finally together with my colleagues I would again like to express our sincere thanks to the organizing committee for the warm reception and hospitality which we received since our arrival in Cairo. I wish all the success to this conference and hope that the deliberation done and the decisions arrived at will give a new directions and life to the movement.

Thank you once again

Long live people's solidarity

Mr. Toshio Akiniwa

Gigantic Change Happened In The 20th Century And Experience, Instructions And A Proposal From Japanese Solidarity Movement

I would like to extend warmest greetings to the 50th anniversary celebration of the establishment of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) from the bottom of my heart.

At the same time I wish to express my sincere condolence to late Dr. Morad Ghaleb, President of AAPSO, who passed away before this commemorative event.

50 years ago, the opening ceremony of the 1st Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples was held at the grand hall of Cairo University at 10:00 a.m. December 26, 1957, with a lot of Cairo citizens gathering.

When we, the Japanese delegation, arrived at the meeting place from the hotel by bus, our bus was immediately surrounded by Egyptian youth, pushing each other and shouting welcoming words. We could not easily enter the meeting place.

At that time Egypt and Cairo looked jubilation everywhere. It was the first time for me to see such a scene, and I was overwhelmed by the heated breath of the liberation of Egypt and Africa and I was caught with a deep impression.

Now I am going to give three remarks and one suggestion to you.

At first I would like to summarize the process of humanity during last 100 years from the 20th century till the beginning of the 21st century including the 50 years since establishment of

AAPSO.

I think you have at your hand a chart we made. This chart is one of the documents which I am using in Japan for my lecture in and outside our organization.

The purpose of making this chart lies in our effort to know that the progress of the history seen in the time span of centuries, it is truly remarkable, and to confirm with each other that the present scene of our existence at the beginning of the 21st century is also hopeful and encouraging for us to advance with confidence and vigor.

Just before stepping in the detailed explanation, I think I should tell in short the character of the 20th century. The 20th century began with monopoly capitalism and imperialism dominating the world. During the 20th century, humanity underwent worldwide ravages of two world wars, fascism and militarism, and a series of wars of aggression. But these calamities were overcome through efforts and bitter struggles by peoples, paving the way for enormous historic changes to take place.

Please look at the chronology. To the left of the chart you see main happenings since the 19th Century till the 21st Century, and in the middle population growth, and to the right structure of the world at the beginning of the 20th Century, and below that the structure at the beginning of the 21st Century. And at the bottom there is a list of grave problems the present capitalist world has at the dawn of the 21st Century.

I give some explanation according to the left part of the chart.

It was in the 16th Century that capitalism started. Colonialism also started at that time.

In the 20th century capitalism developed to monopoly capitalism.

In 1917 with October Revolution in Russia, coexistence of capitalism and socialism began for the first time on the earth in human history.

In 1945 with the World War II ending, the United Nations was inaugurated, and the UN Charter validated. As for the world peace, there was invented the system that peace would be protected by accord of five Powers, namely, the US, the UK, France, China, and the USSR. The UN member countries were 51 at the beginning.

In 1950 with the start of Korean War peace effort by the accord of five Powers collapse. In 1955 the Conference of Asian People was held and Asian solidarity committees were established in each Asian country. Five Principles for Peace was hailed. Bandung Conference was held by 29 countries and recognized the rights to national self-determination for the first time in the history of human being. Peace was said to be maintained by the respect of the rights to national self-determination.

In 1958 the Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples was held and AAPSO was founded.

In 1960 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

In 1961 the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries was inaugurated and AAPSO nominated as an observer organization.

In 1965 Vietnam War intensified.

In 1970 both the UN and the NAM failed accusing the US aggression in Vietnam In 1975 the US was fatally defeated in Vietnam.

In 1983 the US occupied Grenada. The UN accused aggression by naming for the first time in history.

In 1986 the US militarily intervened in Libya. The UN was accused by naming.

In 1989 the US militarily intervened in Panama. The UN was accused by naming.

In 1991 the hegemonic Soviet Union disintegrated, opening new possibilities for healthy development of the world innovative movement.

In 2003 the Iraqi War started: the UN did not admit the US aggression nor ratify it. 49 countries with just 19% of world population supported the war.

In 2005 87 countries participated in the Summit Conference Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Bandung Conference. In Latin America Venezuelan President Mr. Chavez advocated "socialism of the 21st century".

In 2006 the 14th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries was held, revitalizing the NAM (Havana).

Thus in the 21st century the time has come for every nation to be the master of the own country. This Conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of AAPSO is held under such circumstances.

Please look at several writings in the middle of the chart. It shows the growth of the world population. 10 millions 10,000 years ago. At the start of Christian era it was 300 millions. It was 1 billion in the 19th century, 1.6 billion in the 20th century. And now 6.3 billions in the 21st century. The population increased in 100 years since the 20th century till the 21st century by 4.7 billions. During this period capitalism was highly developed.

Please watch the map to the right.

The map shows the world at the beginning of the 20th century. At that time the population of the countries under monopoly capitalism was 650 millions, occupying 35% of total population. The population under the colonial rule and semi colonial countries was 1,050 millions, occupying 65% of total population. The world total population was 1.6 billion.

You can see the chart showing the population division in the world at the beginning of the 21st Century.

Countries under monopoly capitalism 900 millions 14%
Countries advancing toward socialism (China, Vietnam, Cuba)
1,500 millions 24%
Other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America
3,500 millions 56%
Countries in the former Soviet Union 400 millions 6%

6,300 millions in total

NAM member countries with population 118 3,060,000,000
NAM observer countries with population 16 1,655,170,000

A total population 4,715,170,000

In the recent world making of regional communities based on respect for national self-determination, peace, and prosperity is advancing.

ASEAN	17 countries	3,235,400,000
Shanghai Cooperation Organization	10 countries	2,845,600,000
African Union	53 countries	904,400,000
The Union of South American Nations	12 countries	307,500,000

The world structure has been remarkably changing.

And now there can be seen seven outstanding contradictions deriving from present capitalism which is unable to properly control its gigantically developed productive capacity.

I think that in the field of the international politics AAPSO as an observer organization of the NAM, the essential player for peace and national self-determination, is and will be more and more

important for its existence and its role.

Secondly, I would like to introduce to you three factors that enabled Japan AALA Solidarity Committee to act continuously during these 53 years since its establishment.

(1) Japan AALA worked together with those Japanese: who wish to have an independent and democratic government which really serves for its nation, opposing present Japanese Government which blindly obeys US directions and serves for the benefit of big enterprises.

After Cairo Conference in 1958 a new struggle started within our rank for constructing such a Japan AA Solidarity Committee that can raise the banner of true international solidarity, opposing the Japan-US Security Treaty, and that can develop nation-wide solidarity movement with various individuals and organizations instead of the then solidarity committee with mere 200 supporters of MPs, scholars, and men of culture in and near Tokyo.

In the history of Japan AALA the 4th Congress of Japanese AA (1960) marked an outstanding advance toward the development of its movement and organization. In this course all the MPs from the government party left our organization.

After that our activities and organizational construction progressed at once. It was our activity for executing the decision of "the international united campaign of April 28 Okinawa day" adopted at the 3rd Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples (Mosi, 1963) organized by AAPSO that promoted our advance.

The great march all over Japan for freeing of Okinawa was organized together with the campaign of "US quit from Vietnam!". Wherever this march passed by local branches of Japan AA Solidarity Committee were organized one by one.

Now we have our branch organizations in 41 prefectures out of 47 total prefectures. As for our membership we have now almost 4,000 fee-paying individual members and 19 organization members including labor unions (2,790,000 people organized

altogether).

(2) We have adhered to truly independent standpoint against any kind of interference from foreign countries.

a) We opposed aggressions in Czechoslovakia (1968) and Afghanistan (1979) by the Soviet Union.

b) We did not admit interference (1966) from China in the pretext of the so-called Cultural Revolution. The then President and Secretary-General who made another organization in support of Cultural Revolution dispersed after supporting Pol Pot group in Cambodia. During this struggle all the MPs from the Japanese Socialist Party left our committee.

In 2004 Japan AALA dispatched its delegation to China with an invitation from Chinese organization after the interval of 38 years.

(3) We had overcome the situations that we might have been taken advantage of in the maneuver of the terror group, and have maintained the principle of international solidarity.

It was this struggle that pushed us to participate in Summit Conferences of Non-Aligned Countries as observer.

Early 1990's through activity of a few leaders of Japan AALA there happened a situation that Japan AALA might have be taken advantage of in the maneuver of a Philippine terror group. Our Congress that dealt with this problem was adjourned, and the continuing Congress was held (95/1) to reconfirm the principle of international solidarity. The principle reads, "Firstly each Asian, African, or Latin American nation must develop its struggle in the own country, and based on the commonness of the demands of people like national self-determination, anti-nuclear, peace, democracy, and society progress, should extend international solidarity through united activity on the agreed agendas in mutual independence and equality without interference in each others' affairs", and "We should not engage in any armed struggle in another country directed by specific revolution theory, nor recognize any kind of terrorism."

Based on this standpoint at that Congress Japan AALA decided to stimulate realization of non-nuclear and non-aligned Japan for Japanese Government to join the Non-Aligned Summit Conference and to play in this course a proper role suitable for us as Japan AALA. Accordingly we decided to join the AAPSO delegation to the NAM Summit in order to attend and study the Non-Alignment Movement. It was the time of the 11th NAM Summit Conference.

Japan AALA has already participated in 4 Non-Aligned Summit Conferences (11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th) and is now acting to realize non-nuclear and non-aligned Japan and to strengthen ties between the NAM and such Japanese who wish Japanese Government to participate in the NAM Summit.

At the 12th NAM Summit Conference in Durban (98/9) Japan AALA delegation, with precious cooperation and encouragement of Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak, our Secretary-General, distributed to the delegations of all the countries attending the Summit our video "Withdraw U.S. Bases!-Appeal From Okinawa" (English, French, and Spanish editions). Before ending the Conference we found that the Final Document of the 12th Summit contained the words "foreign military base" which had not appear in the draft. I learned again the importance of working on NAM as AAPSO.

As the third remark, I would like to introduce two activities of Japan AALA which aimed at strengthening ties of Japanese who wish to have non-nuclear and non-aligned Japan with the NAM.

(1) We held the "International Symposium On Non-Aligned Movement" (Tokyo 2001/9/15-16), in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the First Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries.

This "NAM symposium" was said to be highly international, receiving messages from President Mr. Mbeki as NAM Chairperson, Vietnamese Vice-President Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, and welcoming panelists from Puerto Rican NMIP as NAM

observer organization, Vietnam committee for Asian-African, Latin American solidarity and cooperation, NAM Center for South-South Technical Cooperation and the Japanese Communist Party (MP). Dr. Morad Ghaleb, President of AAPSO was represented by his special report as a panelist, because of absence by illness.

More than 500 audience from all over Japan attended this "NAM symposium". It was honored by presence of 18 diplomats including ambassadors from 15 embassies of non-aligned countries.

This "Symposium" achieved unexpected success for promoting the NAM among Japanese and encouraging ambassadors and diplomats of non-aligned countries in Japan.

(2) Japan AALA sponsored a lecture meeting "Asia, Africa, and Latin America -- In the present-day world" (05/4, Tokyo) in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference and of the founding of Japan AALA. The lecturer was Mr. Tetsuzo Fuwa, Chairperson of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party (at that time). The meeting was attended by 1900 audience from all over Japan and 12 diplomats including ambassadors from 11 countries as invited guests. All the participants were quite moved by the lecture.

I presented the English booklets (430) of this lecture to the top leaders participating in the 14th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, 2006). Diplomats who had read this booklet told us, like "I read it at a stretch this morning, and am moved." I have taken with me these booklets to present to all of you.

Finally I have one proposal to AAPSO.

It is related to the following two resolutions adopted by the First Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples in Cairo at the time of the establishment of AAPSO

a) Removal of foreign military bases,

b) Abolition of Nuclear weapons.

I wish that AAPSO may take in consideration developing suitable activity toward these objectives as an observer organization of the NAM at the coming 15th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Cairo (2009).

Now I conclude this speech dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO Foundation by expressing our sincere resolution that Japan AALA will work hard for that together with AAPSO.

Thank you very much for listening

2nd Session

Neo-Liberal Globalization Policies

Chairperson: Mr. Yadave Reddy
General-Secretary of AIPSO
(India)

Professor Reynaldo De Guzman*

Unite Our Struggles For Peace And Democracy!

The Philippine Peace and Solidarity Council (PPSC), greets all convenors and participants in this historic gathering in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of AAPSO, and wishes every success to its central aim of uniting the struggles of peoples for the attainment of peace and democracy throughout the world.

As our humble contribution to this series of events, PPSC hosted a conference on "The Future Role of NAM and the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO", held in Manila last June 2007. In that conference, the participants endorsed the need for the expansion of AAPSO activities both in the Philippines and the region as vital for the strengthening of the NAM and upholding the importance of the U.N.

The PPSC remains proud of its association with the AAPSO, an organization with an illustrious history of fighting for the cause of peace, national liberation and people's progress; of struggling against colonialism, racism and imperialist domination. We share and continue to propagate the progressive viewpoints of AAPSO on the following topical issues:

1. Enhancement of the principles of national reconciliation, political pluralism, and the peaceful and just resolution of internal conflicts, opposition to the use of violence as the means to pursue

*** President of Philippine Peace and Solidarity Council (P.P.S.C.)**

social changes in the context of contemporary Philippine society;

2. National freedom from foreign military bases and forces and the removal of all forms of foreign extra-territorial rights in the Philippines, particularly the Visiting Forces Agreement with the U.S.;

3. Promotion of genuine national and social development through economic independence, natural industrialization, and the development of a strong and patriotic sector of the economy;

4. Protection and promotion of civil liberties and all fundamental human rights, promotion of democracy and human dignity through social justice and the democratization of wealth;

5. Gender equality, and the protection of children and minors. Protection of the environment from all hazards, non alignment and identification with other developing countries and all progressive movements;

6. Removal of the trade disparities conditioned by imperialist countries against developing countries. Removal of exploitative practices in financial and economic relations among countries particularly through the intervention of the World Bank, IMF, World Trade Organization and the Asian Development Bank.

Globalization is the present stage of the imperialist drive for global hegemony, which came in the wake of the dismantling of the USSR and of the socialist community in Eastern Europe around one and a half decades ago. It is characterized by the penetration of imperialist finance capital everywhere, particularly in the former socialist and socialist-oriented countries, as well as in the non-aligned countries, all of which formerly resisted imperialist dictation and exploitation at the time when there was a strong socialist system that was a counter-balance to imperialism.

This stage is also characterized by the imperialist drive to tie-up or reign-in together the international community not only as an expanded investment area, but also as a supranational market for transnational products and services, as well as a borderless

source of raw materials. Absent the alternative example of the former socialist community where social responsibility was paramount, globalization today means unbridled imperialist profiteering at the expense of social services and job security, of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, of the lives of whole peoples, and of world peace and security.

The Philippine Experience

The economies of most of the developing countries are constrained by the dictates of imperialism, as concretely set in the policies of deregulation, liberalization and privatization laid down by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. In the case of the Philippines, which has a neocolonial system where the government acts as the caretaker for imperialist interests, the bureaucracy is run by agents of imperialism, with the central bank, the monetary board, the finance and other departments having to do with the economy being administered by members of the Filipino elite who have previously been employed with, or have trained under, the WB/IMF and/or the WTO.

Also permanent fixtures in other executive departments as well as in legislative offices are US and other imperialist advisory and consultancy firms, as well as their related foundations and "non-governmental organizations", inflicting themselves on our country by dishing out prescriptions and recommendations to further deregulate and liberalize business activities, and to further privatize or even abolish the remaining state sector of the economy, as recipes for national progress, even as continued compliance with such dictates over the past decades has only resulted in consistent economic decline.

The continued economic decline of the Philippines, in comparison with other developing countries, is usually explained only as the result of local corruption or lackluster compliance with

WB-IMF-WTO dictates, however, the masses of our people are more and more realizing that our economic under-development is precisely the result of the long chain of WB-IMF-WTO dictates.

Deregulating the Economy

Based on the experience of the Philippines, the major imperialist dictates related to the policy of deregulation are the following:

1. Keeping the economy open to foreign economic penetration, and granting investment incentives to foreign investors (which incentives are not even extended to local entrepreneurs).

2. Allowing foreign investment in almost all business areas (including areas where foreign capital could compete with, and even overwhelm, local entrepreneurs).

3. Allowing local borrowings by foreign investors --- from banks and other financial institutions, and even through the local floating of stocks (public offerings at the stock market). It is tragic that instead of directing foreign investments toward selected industries that need development, it is the internal savings of the Filipino people that are being harnessed by foreign capitalists for purposes determined solely by their selfish profiteering interests.

4. The granting by the government of contingent liability guarantees, or the so-called "sovereign guarantees" on the foreign debt of the private sector. With the business failure of these private borrowers, the responsibility for the payment of their foreign borrowings are transferred to the government, and therefore becomes the burden of the masses of the Filipino people.

5. The automatic appropriation of funds in the national budget for the payment of at least the interest on the government's foreign debt.

6. Allowing the full repatriation of profits and even capital from

the local operations of transnational corporations.

Import Liberalization

Regarding the imperialist policy of liberalization, this continues to be enforced with particular severity in the area of import liberalization, which resulted to two (2) major economic disasters for the Philippines: (1) the closing down of many industries and handicraft factories which cannot compete with low-priced non-agricultural imports; and (2) the ruin of farmers and livestock growers who cannot compete with low-priced agricultural imports. Industry closures have led to higher unemployment, and the reduction in the membership and clout of unions in general. In the agricultural sector, hard hit were rice and com farmers in view of the removal of previous production incentives, and the freezing of support prices to levels of over a decade ago. Our local livestock raisers and vegetable farmers are also heavily hit.

Import liberalization is also an anti-industrialization scheme under which developing countries are consigned to consuming imported finished products, diverting their attention away from the goal of developing their own internal capacity to manufacture their needed products. In the Philippines, import liberalization has led (on the one hand) to the closure of more job-sustaining factories, and (on the other hand) the mushrooming of supermarkets, department stores and shopping malls selling imported goods.

The Economic, Social and Political Implications of Imperialist Dictates

In the Philippines, there is greater impetus for the masses of our people, and especially for the progressive organizations, to step us the anti-imperialist struggle, in view of the socio-economic and political crises that has engulfed our country.

Without basic industries, the economy cannot grow fast enough to meet the needs of a rapidly multiplying population. The

economy is extremely vulnerable to external conditions, because of its excessive dependence on foreign loans and investments. Even the Philippine currency (the Peso) is vulnerable to speculators and to the whims of western "financial ratings" companies (the US-based Standard and Poor, and Moody's Investor Services, and the UK-based Fitch Ratings). Portfolio investments usually go to speculative stocks manipulated by market vultures, and investors are not concerned with the long-term development of productive capacity, but only with getting a quick buck. Prices of petroleum products and basic commodities are balooning way above their real costs. The economy and the government's fiscal situation are kept afloat by remittances from overseas Filipino workers -- earnings made at the cost of sufferings and discrimination, victimization by illegal recruiters and abusive employers, and untold family and social dislocations.

The absence of political stability is due not only to the unabashed corruption and deception on the part of the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regime, but also because of the massive poverty and the exclusion of a large number of our people from meaningful participation in the country's life. Unbridled corruption and cynicism are rampant in both the public and private sectors, and the Arroyo regime can never be able to lead the country out of the present crises.

The present Arroyo regime is increasingly unable to make both ends meet, as indicated by chronic budget deficits and the constant increase in taxes and fees. Further, the government is now also unable to service the public debt without having to take out new loans.. All of Arroyo's grandiose plans for job creation, poverty reduction and financial stability remain only as deceptive promises as she continues to do the bidding of imperialism. As a result of the government's bankruptcy, public infrastructure is deteriorating, and the national environment is being degraded.

Public morale is declining, as shown by rising rates of emigration.

The neocolonial system despoils the country's manpower potentials due to limited employment opportunities, and has forced 10% of the country's population to seek employment and permanent residence outside the country. The country sends abroad highly trained doctors to work as nurses, and nurses to work as care-givers, thus sowing the seeds of a future crisis in our domestic health services.

Lacking in employment-generating industries, half of the country's employed manpower works in the service sector. Well educated professionals are forced to work as "customer relations officers" and "product marketeers" in call centers, and skilled teachers as nannies and domestic helpers locally or abroad. The quality of public and private education is expected to deteriorate with the massive emigration of teachers, and this would affect the future of our young people.

The neocolonial system makes inevitable the demolition of the middle class, and the widening of social disparities within our country. Crime and even terrorism continues to rise because of glaring inequalities in life's chances and opportunities.

The Possibilities for Economic Independence

Beyond the rhetoric, the basic questions concerning economic independence for developing countries are the following:

1. Can we re-nationalize? Can we resist the pressures for further privatization? Surely, dwindling petroleum resources and the constant increases in oil prices will compel many governments to re-nationalize the petroleum industry. This is a call of many mass organizations in our own country, and this demand is now being echoed by patriotic elements in the Philippine legislature. Further, there is growing resistance against the drive for the privatization of hospitals, the food security agency, the government administered workers' pension and health insurance

funds, and the other agencies which are presently mandated to extend socially-necessary services.

2. Can we re-impose protectionist measures? Can we resist the continued pressures for import liberalization? In the Philippines, local entrepreneurs have revived the National Economic Protectionism Association (NEPA), which organization is leading the fight for the re-imposition of protectionist measures by way of quotas and tariffs. Organizations of farmers, livestock raisers and even consumers are also active in the struggle against destructive import liberalization, and are demanding that the government renew the extension of production assistance, and the reasonable adjustment of support prices for vital crops. Another organization, the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), groups together exporters, other local manufacturing groups, as well as labor groups in industries affected by the flood of imported goods, and takes a united stand against import liberalization.

3. Can we refuse to pay the unjust foreign debts? There is a growing call among our people for a thorough audit of the country's foreign debt, and for the repudiation of all those onerous debts which have not really profited the country, but have only gone to line the pockets of the foreign creditors and their local agents at the expense of our people. We know that international creditors will try to enforce economic measures to compel debtor states to pay the so-called "obligations", but at least, the solidarity of debtor countries similarly situated can help ensure observance of the Drago Doctrine in international law, which prohibits any country from declaring war just to exact payment.

The Need for Solidarity

The struggle of developing countries to liberate their economies from imperialist dictates is multi-faceted, but in general, the different aspects relate to the following United Nations' Millennium Development Goals: (1) Trade Justice; (2) Debt Cancellation; (3)

Increase in the quantity and quality of aid; and (4) Progress in national poverty reduction and eliminate. To these goals should be added the democratic reform of the United Nations itself. The democratic reform of the United Nations should not be limited to the political reforms outlined in the Campaign for A More Democratic UN (CAMDUN), but should extend to the economic aspects as well. However, this can be realized only with the broadest solidarity and cooperation among countries and peoples.

Going back to the particular case of the Philippines, our most pressing concerns in the economic field are the following: enactment of measures against the forced liberalization and privatization of public services; ending the dumping of commodities by imperialist countries and transnational corporations; increasing the accountability and transparency of the government in dealing with the WB-IMF-WTO ; and a public and transparent audit of all the loans secured by all the past regimes or "kleptocracies", in order to root out and denounce all those odious loans stemming from fraud-tainted deals.

We are at the tail end of globalization. The Asian financial crisis of 1997 brought about by the liberalization of capital account to promote freer flows of capital resulted in economic stagnation and increased poverty in our region. Our population streaked from just 16 million after WW2 to an awesome 88 million today. In the year 2012, this demographic explosion could reach 100 million, and in 2030 about 150 million.

Even today, we cannot adequately feed an estimated 40 million already groveling in hunger. More than 700,000 Filipinos live in slum communities of Metro Manila alone and the numbers are growing. More than seventy percent of Filipinos are poor, earning below minimum wage, without decent housing, educational opportunities for children and more than 2000 migrant Filipino workers leave the country each day in search of better opportunities abroad. The loss of local jobs due to globalization

and neo-liberal policies of the Arroyo government have forced 10 % of our population to seek work or migrate abroad even in war torn and dangerous countries. The huge remittances of our overseas Filipino workers amounting to $ 14 billion last year, is fourth biggest in the world and propels domestic spending.

The country's foreign debt today brings us closer to the brink of bankruptcy. From a debt of $ 28 billion after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, our current national government debt is more than $98 billion. In fact, last year alone debt service for both principal and interest payments is almost 54% of our national expenditures.. Payments for these debts clearly dwarf the already limited resources for social services like health and education. The government policy of borrowing heavily to pay old debts is highly unsustainable and harmful in the long run.

The debt problem will fall hardest on the next generation. As of the moment, each Filipino soul, from the newly born baby to the dying is shoulderil1g more than $ 1000 for debts they don't owe and from which they did not benefit whatsoever.

As we commemorate, the 50th anniversary of the AAPSO, we enjoin all our partners, allies, and friends, to help build a strong constituency to win more tangible victories towards liberating ourselves from years of oppression and social inequities.

The best way to honor and pay tribute to the founding fathers of AAPSO is not just to continue the fight, but also to find and build the necessary conditions to finally this win fight.

Thank you for your kind attention

Dr. Mohamed Ra'ouf Hamid*

We are marking today the fiftieth anniversary of AAPSO, and at the same time we are recalling late Dr. Morad Ghaleb. For purposes of practicality, allow me to address you on one issue in particular; namely the cultural element of globalization. If all effective powers of the world are talking about the so-called "soft" and "hard" powers, so we are ought to attach more significance to the role of culture while we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of AAPSO. Let me start by saying that the image of global developments is formed to serve certain objectives. I shall try to explain what I mean immediately. Numerous attempts were exerted to illustrate the collapse of former Soviet Union in 1989, and probably you read about them in the press or in some literatures. I will highlight some aspects but in direct terms. In 1989, and just one year earlier to the events of September 1990, a research was issued by the Exeter Magazine, in which Professor Uzan talked about the world in the future; he explained that we have an artificial world which constitutes the core and another marginal or circumferential world. As he was the one who established this theory, he must have evaluated the artificial world

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- Transletad by: Mr. Hassen Thabet.

based on the concepts and the value system which govern the world.

Here I wish to pinpoint that the actual translation of this theory started right away and was illustrated in the formation of the nowadays G8, or the Group of Major Industrialized Countries. There was an immediate translation of the theory. Professor Uzan talked about the need to adopt certain values including the capitalist value and the capitalist methodology. Following Uzan there came Huntington who developed certain classifications, such as democracy, human rights, individual freedom and functioning of mind. We tend not to debate these values in general terms, but we believe the ultimate result was that Huntington established the instrument by which he can evaluate global developments without really giving an opportunity for others to share him the drawing of this value map. The result was that this system has become the artificial core, and the values related to this system have become the determinants of political action we all seek.

Then Foire came along to talk about the necessity for the domination of capitalist values, and that the causes for disagreements shall last, and that the value system or the system of agreement or disagreement, or the cultural system is generally a vehicle of interests. Those who believe in this system should choose the right vehicle and revolve around this context if they are to move out of the system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The value system is now used as a delicate façade that disguises interests that can be used repeatedly, regardless of the true value of these interests, and irrespective of the human element or human interest that should be the real driving force.

President Bush in the aftermath of 9\11 attacks in New York City added the term "terror" without providing a clear definition of

what it meant, only to be added to the global system of values. What I want to say is that there is a value system planned for the future based mainly on the capitalist system, and in this respect there are certain values we can agree to but there others that we disapprove of. The problem is that moral and religious values will fall under the effect of this global value. This is true because in all instances of agreement or disagreement no attention is given to the experiences or histories or even illusions of others, there is only one vision imposed and repeatedly mentioned in the speeches of world leaders explicitly and implicitly. There is always this insinuation of having an upper class civilization and a lower class one, and that our nations must adopt the same classification.

If we connect the world value system to this vision we shall see that it is not only a matter of boastful denial of the lower, but also a preparation for a theatre of action against others. In strategic terms, and as you know, there is the concept of theatre preparation for military action. The world system which is to be imposed is dedicated for the preparation of this theatre and is moved by interest regardless of the interests of others, even more, it is in the interest of major powers to ignite conflicts and fanaticism that do not exist in the first place.

If we turn this page over and ask what does this have to do with history, I must recall my personal experience since I was working in the UN. There was a joint project undertaken by Egypt, Italy and Greece on "the Dialogue between the Civilizations of the Ancient World". We have arrived to certain findings through the project which we worked on and submitted to the United Nations. As a result of our work, the UN declared 2001 a Year for Dialogue by virtue of a resolution issued by the General Assembly. But what were the principles that were derived by the UN from this project?

The first principle was that of diversity and the UN, the second was that human patterns are a mosaic that does not tolerate

change, because it reveals cultural and civilization heritage, and here lies the third principle. How does this affect the global system?

We are addressing men of culture who should have their say, and civil societies which undertake huge responsibilities but whose awareness on such issues should be raised. Globalization is governed by numerous factors which integrate with each other all falling within this human mosaic. The reality reflects the findings of this Quartet dialogue, and the selection of the countries was based on the fact that they all possess of ancient civilizations. Finally, the project proved that civilizations integrate and that experiences exchange. We all need to work, and I wish that this was a reminder of the need to disseminate the right type of culture.

Thank you

Mr. Pak Song Do*

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Delegates and friends,

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of AAPSO, I would like to extend thanks to the AAPSO and the members of the organizing committee for inviting us to this event being held in Cairo, the capital city of Egypt known as the country of ancient culture with a long historical tradition.

We highly appreciate the role of the AAPSO that has carried out so far to extend active support and encouragement to the Afro-Asian people in their struggle to oppose the imperialism, consolidate the national independence, and safeguard the world peace and security.

At the same time, we are very thankful to the AAPSO for their constant support and solidarity to the just cause of our people in their struggle to put an end to the US hostile policy towards the D.P.R.K to remove the source of war and achieve solid peace of Korean Peninsula, and to accomplish the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Today mankind desires to mark the 21st century as a century of peace and development free from aggression and war.

However the aggression and war of the imperialism is more

*** Counsellor at the Embassy of DPRK, Delivered the speech on behalf of the DPRK Solidarity Committee.**

intensifying as the days go by for world domination.

The open armed aggression and interference of the US in other countries in the name of "globalization" and "war on terror" put the world in more unstable and disturbed situation. For example continued worsening of the Middle East, the hottest spot in the world.

The United States and its allies invaded Iraq and Afghanistan under the pretext of "War on Terror".

That is why there is not a single day without gun firing and clashes in those countries, which is well known fact to everybody.

The US is extending the political, diplomatic support and giving military to Israel and protecting and taking sides with the anti-Palestine and waging peace disturbance maneuvers.

The US "war on terror" has never rooted out terror but brought vicious circle of terrors and retaliation and the world has never become safe but faced with more dangerous threats of terror.

The US war maneuver is being openly committed not only in the Middle East but also in the Korean Peninsula. Now the US deployed the modern military hardware on a large scale in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, thus aggravated the situation.

The South Korean - US combined command officially announced that they will plan to stage the joint military exercises, the "Key Resolve" and the "Foal Eagle" throughout the south Korea from March 2nd to 7th.

These provocative and dangerous nature is redoubling as they are to be staged under the situation that the US military brass - hats are letting loose one after another bellicose remarks threatening and blackmailing the D.P.R. Korea and efforts are being made to modernize arms and equipments of US forces in south Korea and beef up the latest armed forces in and around south Korea.

If we don't check aggression, interference and the war

maneuvers of the imperialism, the mankind would suffer from unavailable disaster of war and the world would fall into the uncontrollable confusion.

In order to prevent the war and safeguard peace, the world peace-loving forces should unite and deal a telling blow to the aggressive forces of imperialism.

"United we stand, divided we fall" is the truth of history.

At the present it is the urgent task before us to further strengthen the international solidarity between the peace-loving forces upholding invariably the banner of anti-imperialism and to safeguard the world peace and security by forming on a worldwide scale the encirclement of the anti-war and peace loving forces against the war forces.

"Let's safeguard peace" is the slogan that the progressive countries cherishing justice and peace should always hold high. Peace can be only realized through the struggle against war of imperialism.

Regarding the struggle of safeguarding peace as the most important task for defending national sovereignty, we have been continuously waging the struggle for it.

We express our belief and expectation that AAPSO which has extend its invariable support and solidarity to the people of the progressive countries in their struggle against war, would not fail to maintain its stand for independence against the imperialism.

We are sure that AAPSO would regard it as their main cause to extend variable support and solidarity to the people of progressive countries in their struggle against war and for peace.

Thank you

Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis*

The developments in Asia in its broadest sense, starting from the so-called Middle East, till Far and North Asia, are going through changes which are mainly determined by the great Imperialist forces, especially the USA and its allies allover the world.

How true Zbigniew Brzezinski, former NSA of the US administration, was in his book the "Great Chessboard", when he spoke about the term "EURASIA". Today it is more than ever clear that the US geostrategical plans for domination in Asia are passing through and are linked with the domination and subjugation of the region of the Balkans, of the East Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Internationally, war already constitutes an inherent part of developments. The overturning of principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter is a reality. Militarization is taking on huge dimensions. Military spending has already exceeded what it was during the cold war. With the big imperialist powers in the forefront, all countries-according to their size are being drawn into the arsenal building game, while 30.000 people a day starve to death and half of the world's population subsists on less than two dollars a day.

*** Executive Secretary of the World Peace Council (WPC).**

The three wars unleashed to date by NATO and the USA in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq, Israel's war on Lebanon, the threats made regarding an immediate attack on Iran and the dozens of interventions on all continents open the way for dangerous situations to arise. The consequences of all this are already influencing not only the countries directly affected but also entire regions. Despite the increased reaction to this and the resistance of the peoples, the US, NATO and their allies are continuing on the same path. This has been at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and tremendous destruction. Participation in the war in Afghanistan is on the rise with the inclusion of non-NATO member countries. The situati6n in that country is deteriorating. The only sector that is developing is that of opium poppy cultivation, which grew by 50% from 2004 to 2006, meeting 93% of the world market demand for opiates, according to the pertinent UN report. Thousands of civilians, including women and children, have been killed by NATO troops. According to assessments made by the General Secretary of NATO, it does not look as if this war will end even in the next ten years.

The USA, NATO and the EU are preparing to intervene in Iran. The more general economic and military importance of the Eurasian region has drawn the interest of all the large powers. Putin's visit to Iran and the Caspian region as well as the joint communique, which is in the form of an agreement to refrain from using the Caspian for an attack on any country, are clear indications of this. It is obvious that if the war on Iran now being planned is actually started it will have a huge impact, with the danger of it spreading over the region.

The rise and the intensity of imperialist aggressiveness and imperialism's need to impose its domination over the world are leading to intensified militarization and to an increase in armaments. The struggle of imperialist powers to divide up the markets along with the change in the balance of power at the

beginning of the nineties has literally created a vicious circle. Whoever entertained illusions about an arms reduction and decreased militarization has been sadly disappointed.

The new state of imperialist domination has had an impact worldwide. The USA and NATO are escalating militarization and armaments so as to carry out their aggressive plans. The rest of the big imperialist powers do the same so that they can take part in the dividing up of the markets under better terms. Thus, the EU, in cooperation with NATO but also autonomously, is establishing new military forces. It is upgrading its arms industry. Russia is proceeding with the production of a new generation of weaponry and with military cooperation with other countries. Japan is rearming and revising its constitution. And other countries are following this same path for various reasons. Smaller countries either because they participate in imperialist coalitions or because they feel threatened. The result is, however, that today armaments have even gone beyond cold war levels. Monstrous new weapons systems are being developed, with attention focused on outer space.

With regard to nuclear arms, imperialist propaganda is attempting to mislead world public opinion concerning Iran. But as a matter of fact, it is the US - mainly - as well as other nuclear powers that are working intensively to produce the so- called "smart" nuclear weapons and a new generation of nuclear arms.

We have a very clear and principled position in favour of the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. At the same time we can not close our eyes on who is the main and real threat against peace and security, who used first nuclear weapons and who dropped the commitment not to make use of the first strike. We can not equal the responsibility of the aggressors and the victims. We are not in favour of nuclear tests and we consider them harmful, but at the same we condemn the "double moral and standards" of the US administration, which considers some of the

states which hold nuclear weapons as allies and others as terrorists.

About North East Asia

The United States has dominated Northeast Asia economically since the end of World War II, gaining support for its policies there with trade and aid. Today, however, the United States is no longer as powerful; it now shares the stage with China.

In 2007, China's trade with Japan, the world's second-largest economy, surpassed U.S. trade with Japan for the first time since World War II. Similarly, in 2004 China replaced the United States as South Korea's largest trading partner. (In 1991, one year before it normalized relations with South Korea, China accounted for just over one percent of South Korea's exports, compared with 26 percent for the United States. By 2006, China accounted for almost 22 percent and the United States for just 15 percent.) Even if the recently negotiated U.S. South Korean free-trade agreement is ratified, it will not return the United States to the top spot.

Remark: These are relative observations, which do not mean that the trade of US towards Japan and South Korea as such is decreasing, on the contrary China's economic rise (its annual growth and exports) has altered the balance of power in Northeast Asia, with both negative and positive implications. From the United States' perspective, China's ascendance is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, U.S.-Chinese trade grew from $64 billion in 1996 to $343 billion in 2006, and U.S. GDP is 0.6 percent higher today than it otherwise would be as a result of trade and investment with China since 2001. In the past decade, U.S. exports to China have increased from just $12 billion to almost $55 billion -- an amount that exceeds U.S. exports to Argentine, France, Italy, Russia, and Spain combined. In fact, China is the fourth-largest market for U.S. exports and this year could surpass Japan as the third-largest. Finally, China has become the largest

source of U.S. imports.

The new economic dynamic in Northeast Asia is only one factor changing the region's balance of power. The rapid rebalancing of military forces has also been a critical ingredient, with important realignments under way in Japan, South Korea, and China.

The U.S. Japanese relationship continues to be the most important alliance in Northeast Asia and should remain a pillar of the United States' presence in the region. Nevertheless, Japan is fundamentally reassessing how it views its own security needs and is rapidly adopting a more assertive posture in the face of China's economic and military ascendance and the possible reunification of North and South Korea. It also recognizes that as the world's second-largest economy it must participate more actively in the imperialist projects (Afghanistan, Iraq, etc) particularly if it wants to win a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Here we have to mention the clear violation of the Japanese Constitution with the participation in Iraq's occupation with several hundreds of Air Force troops, under "Humanitarian mandate".

The most publicized security-related change in Japan is the drop in the number of U.S. troops stationed in the country. Washington and Tokyo have agreed that 8,000 U.S. marines positioned on Okinawa will be redeployed to Guam, leaving still a total of 40,000-42,000 U.S. troops in Japan.

This change, although emotionally and symbolically important to the Japanese Peace Movement, is unlikely to affect the operational capability of U.S. forces in the Pacific. Advances in military technology allow the United States to do more with fewer troops stationed farther from the battlefield. Starting in 2008, the United States will also base a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Japan for the first time, bringing a new feature to its posture there. Joint military exercises between U.S. and Japanese forces have further improved integration and interoperability between the two

forces, two features that were notoriously poor in the past. Finally, although Japan's Defense Force remains relatively small for the size of the country, with 240,000 troops, its $44 billion budget is the world's fifth-largest.

The Japanese Self-Defense Forces are also well equipped, with 1,000 tanks, a "blue-water navy" (a maritime force capable of operating across the deep waters of open Oceans), and an air force that is scheduled to obtain soon midair refueling tankers, an addition that will extend Japan's operational reach beyond "self-defense". Japan is heading again towards its "Militarist past", it is planning to review the article 9 of its Constitution, which prohibits troops' deployment abroad, amendment which is being resisted and protested by a huge mass movement inside the country.

China from its side feels the pressure and that is being "surrounded" by old and new US Military Bases and is taking up multiple diplomatic initiatives. It has established strong ties with traditional US allies in the region. It is participating in ASEAN + 1, in the APEC, In the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and in the East Asian Summit.

On the Korean Peninsula despite the growing discontent in South Korean population against the US policies towards the DPRKorea, and the feelings that USA may constitute a greater danger to peace than the North, the USA and South Korea agreed finally on a major base-restructuring agreement that includes the return of over 60 U.S. camps to the South Koreans, the relocation of U.S. Army headquarters away from the center of Seoul, and the return of wartime operational control to South Korea by 2012. At the same time new hopes were created through the Six Party talks and the agreement reached on the nuclear issue of the North. The agreement proved amongst others the readiness and the need from DPRK side to find a solution which will allow the country to develop and live in peace with its neighbours.

Australia from its side has promoted a U.S.-Japanese - Australian strategic dialogue to address issues such as missile defense, nuclear proliferation, maritime piracy, climate change, damage to the environment, disaster relief, and UN reform. In a similar vein, Japan's former Prime Minister Abe personally proposed to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, and President Bush the idea of a quadrilateral grouping of their countries focused on disaster preparedness and relief. At the September 2007 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Sydney, Australia, President Bush proposed the formation of an Asia-Pacific democracy partnership, to involve these four countries as well as Canada, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and South Korea.

About the "Great Middle East"

Based on the US-NATO plan for the "Democratizatton of the Middle East" in order to create the "Great Middle East" or "New Middle East", the imperialists are preparing step by step the ground for the "infiltration of the multinational corporations in the region by means of war and other types of intervention.

The new element now is that apart from the ever existing competition between the USA, France, Germany and Great Britain, we have now also Russia, China and India, which are considered as competitors by the first four.

There is already a plan to create a new offensive-aggressive Organism, called MATO (Mideast Anti-Terrorism Organisation), which will serve the mutual cooperation of the western forces on military, police, intelligence and security questions with the moderate allies of the Middle East.

At the same time the ground is being created for new safe pipelines which take out the oil from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea and from there through Israel imported back to

Asia. Avoiding Russian territory, using territories of Azerbaijan and Georgia, both US protectorates in the region and of course Turkey, strategically of the USA. At the same time the existing Russian pipeline ("Caspian Consortium Pipeline") is being undermined (see map 2)

This very Baku - Tblisi - Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, run by the British Petroleum (BP), was inaugurated just one day before the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which can not be considered a coincidence. Israel's interest and cooperation in this project (Israel's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Binyamin Ben-Eliezer was present at the venue together with a delegation of top Israeli oil officials on 11th July 2006),lies in the supplies of water it will get through under water pipelines from Turkey (to be constructed) and from water pipelines from the Tigris river.

The Palestinian situation is deteriorating, with the slow but steady genocide of the Palestinian people, under the Israeli occupation and the clashes amongst the Palestinians, as a result of the Israeli and US administration to divide the territories and isolate the Gaza strip. There can not be any solution, just, fair and viable without the establishment of an independent state of Palestine in the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside Israel. "Solutions" like the one proposed in Annapolis, are aiming at the blackmail of the peoples for more concessions and serving as "face-lifting" of the US foreign policy.

The ongoing occupation of Iraq with more than 5.000 casualties on US side and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead, the country destroyed and the oil extraction under complete US control proves that the US administration is facing much bigger problems than expected. The anti-war movement and sentiments in the USA are growing. This forces the USA to readjust their tactics in the region, seeking for new alliances inside Iraq and the neighbourhood. The USA is trying to build up Sunnite axes to confront Iran and the Shiites, which constitutes an explosive "game with the fire".

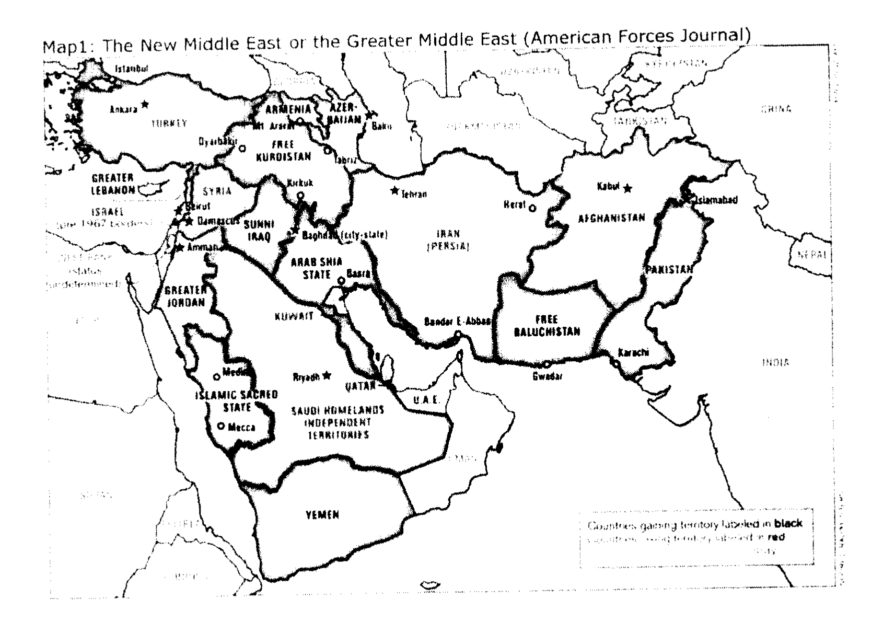
The recent military operations of Turkey in Northern Iraq against the Kurds are provoking new imperialist interventions aiming in the tri-partition of Iraq. Already such plans, even maps exist (see map 1).

The Indo-US nuclear deal was and still is aiming in the strategical cooperation of the US with India, its involvement in the US plans for the broader region. The strong opposition inside the population which led to the rejection of the agreement by the parliament has to be welcome.

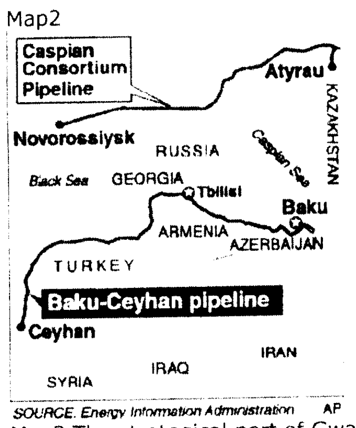
The brutal assassination of B. Bhutto in Pakistan also destabilize further the region, taking into account the plans to divide Pakistan and create a state of "Free Baluchistan" with the strategical important Port of Gwadar (under construction with the cooperation of China -- see map 3) and access to the straits of Hormuz.

In the map 1, you can see the projection of US policies for the coming 10-15 years, every single border change and creation of new state, is implying a whole strategy behind it. Observing who would loose and would win under such a plan/map, it is interesting to analyse the stand and behaviour of every "player".

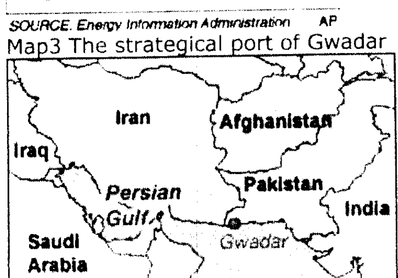
Map1: The New Middle East or the Greater Middle East (American Forces Journal)



Map2



Map3 The strategical port of Gwadar



Dr. Mal:di Dakhlallah*

The Possibility of Building an Independent Economy in the Age of Globalization**

In principle, it is romantic to speak about building a fully independent growing economy in the globalization era. We may talk about more or less dependent economy in the light of some criteria, including:

1- The size of national economy and its position on the global economic map,

2- The structure of external relations and their impact on the structure of national economy,

3- The trends of external relations,

4- The economy's dependence on external economic relations.

Why economic dependency is far-fetched in the globalization Era?

This is due to the fact that globalization looks at the whole global economic map from a single geographic and economic prospective, that's to say, the whole world is deemed a single arena for economic processes in general, and for investment ones in particular. In front of the legions of economic processes; geographic, political and cultural boundaries become considerably fragile.

The reason behind the historical shift from the age of national economies to that of globalized economy is known and may be

*** A Member of the Syrian Peace and Solidarity Committee.**

**** Translated by: Mr. Hassen Thabet.**

illustrated by the substitution of financial capital for industrial and commercial capitals as predominant forces over global economy channels.

It is clear that both industrial and commercial capitals are governed by place. However, financial capital resembles hot air that quickly heads for cold areas to cover the space existing there.

The historical process lying behind such shift is the large-scale movement of gold from Europe and the rest of the world to the United States specially, during, before and after World War II.

The United States of America has witnessed a dense concentration of huge financial capital seeking for the most profitable investment all over the world, resulting in the Marshal project and growth projects in Japan, Asian Tigers,....etc.

Afterwards, the concept of cute financial capital dynamism prevailed the global economy. Many factors has served in creating such exciting shift, the most important of which are those stated in Lester Thurow's famous book titled "the Future of Capitalism":

1- The third revolution, communication technology that ensures a low-cost quick transfer of information.

2- The evolution of industrial technology that leads to decreasing the sizes, lightening the weights and facilitating the movement of products.

3- Minimizing costs and maximizing returns, and the consequent maximization of profits as an axis of capitalism.

Rosto says: " The emotional association with the place has become nonsense within the new context of world economy. Here we are concerned with two things:

1- The said shift, titled the domination of the financial capital and its logic over the world economic, has enhanced the centralization of capital in certain areas and, therefore, promoted the centralization of the international economic decision at global level.

2- The economy of modern knowledge and technology leads to

decreasing the percentage of raw materials in any contemporary product, i.e. it has reduced the importance of developing economies within the world economy and diminished the independency of their decisions.

Striving for Dependence:

It is astonishing to notice how developing countries, even those who raise the banners and slogans of economic independence, are rushing nowadays for the adoption of Foreign investment-attracting laws, i.e. laws that encourage the financial capital dynamicity representing the core of contemporary globalization. It is also astonishing to recognize the efforts exerted by developing countries to enter into partnerships with Europe and the United States. In most cases, these countries strive earnestly for such partnerships and seek for the largest scale of links with the major developed industrial blocks. Using the traditional logic of analysis, one would find out that it is an astounding struggle for dependency for which economically retarded countries are earnestly strive and to which developed countries turn tail.

More Independence & Less Dependence:

I don't think that any developing country in the world currently aspires to get rid of dependence in the known sense of the word, that refers to the national economy's reliance on external factors with regard to infrastructure. This aspiration is difficult for countries located in "cold" areas, i.e. areas with which warm financial capital is more concerned. The issue here is related, in particular, to the Middle East, Southern East Asia and Africa. However, a developing country can exert some efforts to mitigate its dependency, creating greater independency. In this concern, some conditions shall be met to help achieve this objective:

1- The existence of an actual management of dependence, along with an accurate plan and a clear approach for the gradual

reduction of dependence links all through economic development.

2- Dealing with foreign investments as an inevitable evil and directing such investments, as much as possible, to growth-stimulating sectors rather than marginalized consumption sectors that brings about quick income-exhaustion.

Dependency is linked to external investments more than external trade since they create permanent structural connections between the domestic and the external and makes independence difficult over short to medium terms. This is in addition to the accumulative impacts of foreign investments.

In fact, developing countries face the following problem: " If foreign investments are directed to consumption sectors that stimulates quick capital circulation, income exhaustion for the interest of the non-domestic will be doubled and the economic structure will not change from the developmental prospective; both are negative aspects. However, developing countries can eliminate such investments whenever they want without fearing a consequent structural economic jolts, which is a positive aspect. If, on the other hand, investments are directed to important sectors for the purpose of improving the economic structure, this will lead to an accumulative structural progress, which is a positive aspect, yet it will expose the national economy to a long-term structural dependency that is almost non-dispensable, which constitutes the negative aspect (e.g. the Communist Bologna)

Does a developing country have the will and capacity to follow the latter model availing itself from its structural pluses while, in the meantime, protecting itself from its negative impacts?

This is the historical challenge for shifting gradually from dependence to relative independence.

The liberal theory refers to the pluses of such kind of development based on temporary dependence but it doesn't acknowledge its minuses and believes that progress in itself will lead automatically to a better position within the world business

arena. Perhaps the Asian Tigers has been thriving in this domain but its not possible to replicate and apply such historical model to other developing countries; I believe it is impossible due to the fact that this model has existed within a specific political historical status that cannot be restored.

3- The level of dependence or independence is based on the size of the developing country. What is meant here is not only the geographical size but, much more important, the economic magnitude; the Netherlands is geographically small though economically sizable Unlike developed countries, the economic magnitude of developing countries depends on their physical size that includes several components, i.e. the geographical component, the possession of mineral resources, the size and quality of manpower and the country's position in the international market. The huge economic magnitude of china is caused by its physical size; the Domestic Production per capita is low while the ultimate economic size is big.

In principle, the larger the developing country's physical size with all its components, the greater the opportunity to achieve relative economic independence. The reason behind this is not only the variety and abundance of production resources, but also the decline of the so-called fixed cost development (e.g. research costs, the costs of diplomatic mission and military,.....etc.); China can fund space researches while the Netherlands can't.

4- The extent and size of dependence on external relations, whether commercial, investment or others, are reversely proportional to the level of economic dependency. The theory considering external trade as a development wagon is a pro-dependence theory as it help exhaust income in the simplest manner, specially when recognizing the continuous deterioration of the Terms of Trade in developing countries.

The new liberalism confirms the collapse of "import substitution." In principle, this is correct; However specific

experience may proof that import substitution is still possible.

5- The developing Countries' tendency to deal with their equals mitigates dependence and promotes relative independence. Integration is away to enhance the physical size of integrated economy and its consequent positive impacts on the economic magnitude. Regardless of whether they're actually heading for such option, Arab countries can avail themselves of it.

Finally and away from demagogic and promotional ideas, I'd like to refer to the Syrian experience in building a relatively independent economy. Since more than three decades, Syria has pursued an independent approach in building its national economy with all its pros and cons. Although Syria was lagging behind with regard to knowledge economy and communication technology, it managed to build pillars for a relatively independent economy based on two approaches:

1- Applying the import substitution approach through developing consumer processing industries

2- An actual revolution in the agricultural sectors and establishing food security. For example not for limitation, the population of Syria in 1970 was about 5.6 million person and it was importing more than one thirds of its production of food, particularly wheat. Today, the number of the Syrian population is 20 million person and it exports one thirds of its production of wheat and other kinds of food.

It is worth mentioning that Syria has managed to do so without any external debts. it hardly owe anything to anybody. Nowadays, Syria receives no aid or assistance of whatever kind. In 2000, it has promoted its assets of the special Drawing Rights granted by the International Monetary Fund. Moreover, an important indicator of such Syrian reality lies in the fact that the Syrian economy has been growing under a suffocating western siege that has started in the eighties and was escalated in the beginning of the current century, after the Syrian rejection of the war on Iraq.

3rd Session

Consolidation of the Role of Regional Blocs

Chairperson: Mr. Mahmoud Al-Mohery
President of Tunisian Solidarity Committee

Ambassador Victor Carazo*

Notices

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain, Acting President and General Secretary of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization. Distinguished Delegates and Guests from Egypt and from all over the world,

It is a high distinction for me to partake in this significant event, that marks the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO, an Organization that has made a great contribution to the consolidation of international solidarity movements such as the NAM, the Group of 77 and many other multilateral fora engaged in the construction of a better world for the developing countries, the Countries of the South. AAPSO has been pivotal in preserving the principles originating from Bandung, which have full force - perhaps more than ever - in our days. We take pride in joining the works of this gathering with the conviction that our deliberations will provide us with new tools to work in consolidating the international solidarity among the countries of the South in a renewed spirit of Bandung.

Please, allow me to pay tribute to the memory of Dr Morad Ghaleb, who was for the last two decades at the helm of AAPSO. Dr. Ghaleb was one of the most distinguished brand-names of the struggles of the peoples of the developing world. With his

*** Ambassador of Polivarian Republic of Venezuela.**

direction, he greatly contributed to reinforce the role of AAPSO, a reality that is very much alive and ready to go on with all the works carried out during all these fifty years.

This commemoration is taking place at the time when the President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, has decided to relinquish his functions as President of his country. We respect his decision, as conscious as we are that the services President Fidel Castro has yet to render to his fellow Cubans have no boundaries. To us, Fidel will always remain an icon of the XX and XXI centuries, one who belongs to that select category of enlightened leaders who have devoted their lives to the ideal of a better destiny for the peoples of the world and pioneer of the struggles of these peoples against political and economical domination and exploitation. Our heartfelt tribute goes to Commander Fidel Castro with our vows of a long, productive and healthy life for him.

I am very pleased to extend to all of you the warmest greetings from our President Hugo Chavez. Currently, under his leadership in Venezuela we are fighting the war against our strongest foe: poverty and underdevelopment. After we win this struggle, then we will be able to call ourselves a free society. We are going through a historical moment to construct the best possible Venezuela with equal opportunities for all. At the same time, in these endeavors, the Venezuelan Government is also reaching out to other less fortunate peoples of the world to attain and assert their progress and dignity.

It is very clear by now that globalization and neoliberalism have not been able to generate the necessary social changes to eradicate poverty and hunger in our societies.

Taking into account this gloomy and dismaying backdrop, my government has put at the top of the Venezuelan international agenda the following issues:

* Strengthening south-south cooperation.
* Promoting a pluripolar world & reform of the united nations -

especially the representation and procedures of the Security council.

* Expanding ties of cooperation with all the countries & regions.
* Economic agenda must be accompanied by a social & humanitarian agenda.
* Fostering the creation of institution of the "countries of the south" in all the fronts, such as in information, solidarity financial organizations, energy and other areas.
* Promoting regional integration in Latin America according to the special characteristics of the countries of the region, ALBA in opposition to ALCA.
* A new agenda of solidarity & cooperation with Africa.

As one of the speakers of the morning session observed, in Latin America, we are witnessing movements oriented towards new political and economic models, capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the neediest, opposite to the traditional models on injustice, inequities and exclusion. In this group belongs Venezuela under the leadership of President Hugo Chavez and his program of social reforms, participative democracy and social inclusion.

Venezuela is opening to other peoples in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. We are establishing embassies in other countries that had been traditionally neglected in the past. Just to mention a few, Venezuela, has opened diplomatic missions in Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Vietnam, fifteen in Africa, in countries such as Benin, Mali, Equatorial Guinea and so. Now we have 15 Embassies so far in Africa, and we are ready to open our next one, in Sudan, this year.

Venezuela believes in cooperation among the countries of the South. An example: my country has chosen an Egyptian company in the area of gas, Enppi (Engineering for Petroleum and Process Industry), for establishing bilateral cooperation in the development

of our gas industry. If we cooperate among ourselves, in a win-win relationship, we will become stronger and independent from the North.

I am very pleased to announce that in November this year, Venezuela will host the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the South American and African countries, which is one of the major issues for the Venezuelan international agenda of this year. I should recall that the first summit between the two regions took place in Abuja, Nigeria, in November 2006. We urge all the leaders of the African continent to attend this important gathering in my country.

Also, I would like to remember that a significant and new interaction is taking place since 2005 when the new partnership between Arab and South American countries was launched with the Summit of Brasilia. Now, preparations are on their way for the Second Arab-South American Summit, which will be held in Qatar during the last quarter of 2008.

And, from 8-13 April this year, we are holding in Caracas the World Assembly for Peace, as announced this morning by the distinguished Representative from the WPC, event in which Caracas is expected to be declared "The World Capital of Peace and anti-Imperialism".

I would like to bring up an issue that keeps unresolved in field of economics for most of our countries, which emerges from the abysmal inequalities in the North-South relationship: This issue calls for particular attention in any debates and is related to the possession of natural resources and the legitimate right of nations and states on their natural resources and the so-called globalization. There is a universal principle, which has been reflected in various United Nations resolutions and documents, according to which the natural resource is a part or the land, it is a territorial question and a matter of sovereignty. This principle continues to be neglected systematically in our days. Regrettably,

the prevailing reality reveals that the countries of the South continue to be, for the most, exporter of raw materials, producers mainly in the primary sector and their main source of income, their natural resources, remain in the hands of powerful transnational corporations who take the main portion of the earnings in detriment of the owners of the resources, that is to say, our peoples. This is happening, for example, with the petroleum and gas resources, sector in which the international corporations want to take the largest piece of the cake at the expense of the countries with weak legislations on this matter.

Since 2005, Venezuela has changed the association with international oil companies from the form of private companies operating in Venezuela to the figure of joint ventures, in which Venezuela - the people of Venezuela - must perceive the majority of the incomes for the benefit of our society and for our plans of development. This new policy has been accepted by most of the international companies operating in Venezuela, there remain, for instance, Chevron Texaco, Total, Shell, Repsol. While others have chosen to leave. To those who did not accept the new conditions of operations, the Venezuelan government accorded just and fair indemnization. One company, however, Exxon-Mobil, which has very close ties to the American administration, has opted to file procedures in international courts against the Venezuelan major oil and gas company, PDVSA, and pretends to freeze 12 billion dollars of PDVSA assets. The maximum compensation Exxon Mobil should receive, according to the relevant Venezuelan authorities, for its nationalized stake in the Orinoco River Belt project is $1.2 billion, which is a tenth of Exxon's claim to $12 billion of PDVSA's assets. Exxon's $12 billion compensation claim is exaggerated; it is very revealing that $5 billion was the largest amount to which the company had ever aspired in previous negotiations.

Venezuela, while working in the legal and diplomatic

framework, denounces this move by a powerful international player. This is seen by Venezuela and many governments and individuals who support the Venezuelan position on this issue that this is part of an invigorated international plan to take control over the natural resources of the developing countries and reveals new forms of subjugation and neo-colonization.

This is why in the Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab and South American Countries, held in Buenos aires from 20-21 February, Venezuela received the support of all the Ministers, expressed in the Declaration:

38. They recall that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of International Law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their resources, pursuant to their own laws and development policies. Within this context, they condemn any intimidatory actions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela or any other country, which may affect its economic and social development and its cooperation with the countries of the South.

We all know that historically, wars have been triggered over the possession of natural resources. This is the way it has been, and this is how it will continue to be. Therefore, we must remain vigilant at all times to the external unending appetite for the riches of our soils.

In Venezuela today, the wealth of our natural resources belong to the people; the gains resulting from them are destined to the well-being of the entire population, unlike it was done during previous decades. Today, Venezuela is a much more inclusive society of positive realities.

A final word, to recall the participation of Mr. Helmi Sharawi (AARC) this morning, concerning the need for more interaction between AAPSO and countries from Latin America.

Cairo, 26 February, 2008

Ambassador Angel-Dalmau Fernandez*

* Esteemed Members of the Permanent Secretariat of AAPSO.
* Distinguished participants at this International Conference "AAPSO in a Globalized Interdependent World".

Dr. Morad Ghaleb was a modest, progressive, honourable man who dedicated all his life to the search of the wellbeing for his people and poor people at large, meaning the absolute majority of human beings in this world of drastic inequalities. He defended the 80 percent have nots against the selfish 20 percent who have everything. For that we must praise and salute his memory.

I thank AAPSO for giving me the opportunity to express here few ideas on the subject of this Conference under the title of Radical Changes in Latin America.

The neo-liberal globalization policies encouraged by the United States of America all over the world had a significant impact on Latin American where most countries adopted them. After many years of savage neo-liberal impositions these policies collapsed leaving those countries economically and socially much worse than before. Many analysts call it the lost decade, even though they lost much more than ten years. Today very few lovers of free marketing dare to defend neo-liberalism in our part of the world.

*** Ambassador of Cuba in Egypt.**

Then Washington started using a new trick: Free Trade Agreements. This idea was not new, but it now appeared in the Latin American scene with tremendous force. It is very hard to imagine a free trade agreement mutually beneficial on equal basis of exchange between the largest economy in the world and any Latin American country, including the largest ones. In a case like this the benefit can only go to the powerful companies in detriment of the weaker ones. And, as we know, business is business. Solidarity is not a word to be found in the capitalist vocabulary.

During the last 15 years or so the US sponsored neo-liberal projects in the region suffered serious breakdowns, severe crisis and stagnation. Then they started to fall apart. Those failures opened the doors to a new wave of radical social movements, which replaced the previous generation of electoral parties, some of them in the list of center left and ex-radicals. The new movements became the main opposition to US and Latin oligarchies' plans and policies. These new forces could be found in Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico and other countries in the region. Then Hugo Chavez won the presidency in 1998. Cuba was no longer alone in Latin America in terms of governments, because in terms of peoples' support she was never alone.

During the last few years the political picture in Latin America has changed substantially with progressive and / or anti neo-liberal governments taking power in several countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Brazil. I did not mention Venezuela and Cuba because their positions go even farther against the terrible consequences of globalize neo-liberal policies imposed on the region by the United States of America.

The Latin American peoples are awakening to the reality that united they can move forward in their long lasting struggle for their rights to a better life and a better world of which they have been deprived of through many generations.

Washington will put a big fight to try to stop these new trends of people' hopes and the USA best weapon, its eternal weapon, will be to keep the progressive political movements divided, fragmented and isolated from each other. This the USA may continue to do in some countries, but the emergence of leftist governments, the popular political awareness gaining momentum in that part of the world, plus the US economy moving towards a deep crisis, among other factors, tell us that time has started to run against Washington's policies in Latin America.

The North American empire will continue to prevail in the near future, but it has reached its peak and cannot go higher. As all other empires, it will one day go down in history and in this case as example of a protracted and terrible nightmare of humankind.

One day somebody asked Mathama Ghandi about his opinion on Western civilization and his answer was: "it would be a good idea". Ghandi was right, because for what we can see at the beginning of the XXI Century, with the presence of Western imposed preventive wars, wars carried out under false pretexts, daily killing of innocent people, double standard policies, all of them committed or provoked by Western armies or in the name of Western values, we are still waiting to see the image of a real Western civilization which will offer peace instead of war, solidarity instead of selfishness and wellbeing for all instead of for a few. Only then will it earn the title of civilized.

The collapse of socialism in Europe and the disintegration of the Soviet Union was a tragic historical event to many in the word, but it was not the end of history. The world unpolarity that quickly emerged in the early 90's with the USA as the only superpower will not last too long. What is happening in Latin America today is a negation of what Mr. Fukuyama had to say, and it is not the only example. The mighty US army cannot defeat a poorly organized, but ready to defend its land, Iraqi people; the USA has tried unsuccessfully during the last 49 years to destroy the Cuban

Revolution; China will become in due course the strongest economy in the world and India will also become a bigger regional power. Russia does not necessarily agree with everything Washington wants to do here or there. These are only few examples.

For all of us who have the conviction that a better world is not only necessary but also possible, let's not dismay in our daily endeavors in search of unity among the progressive forces. The future does not exist by itself; the future will be what we do today to mould it into the interest of the vast majority of humankind.

As a Cuban I must add that the Cuban Revolution and its people will never let that vast majority down. Fidel Castro's thoughts and political guidance will always be present to ensure it.

I wish this AAPSO Conference on its 50th anniversary every success.

Thank you

4th Session

Hotspots and Escalation of Terrorism

Chairperson: Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch

Dr. Alexander Dzasokhov*

Dear Mr. President, Dear friends,

I have the honour to greet you here on behalf of several generations of participants in the solidarity movement from my country and on behalf of the peoples that formed the great Soviet Union.

Undoubtedly, drastic political changes of the recent years could lead to the interruption of solidarity between our peoples. Fortunately, this hasn't happened.

Russia is a multinational and a multi confessional as well as a Eurasian state, led by President Putin would preserve and modernize its solidarity and friendship with the Afro-Asian world. That is why at the request of a younger generation I greet all of you who gathered today in Cairo, in this hall.

The best years of my political activities, 16 years, are deeply intertwined with the AAPSO.

Our meeting on the historic land of Egypt makes me extremely glad and I invite everyone to take a view of the AAPSO from the height of 50 years.

A lot has been done, but there were also difficult times. The whole epoch has changed since the moment when we started putting forward the ideas of solidarity.

*** Head of The Russian Delegation, Ex-Chairman of Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, and Senator of The Council of Federation of Federal Assembly of The Russian Federation.**

The new century means new challenges including globalization, transnational ambitions, terrorism, tensions between civilizations, etc. I would like to come out with the following remarks in this regard.

First: Along with the President and the Secretary-General, national organizations can elaborate new agenda for the solidarity movement and present their program to the whole community of non-governmental organizations and to official authorities.

Second: It is essential to work out methods of support for peoples of Asia and Africa in their willingness to secure national identity and traditions. At the same time we should agree that is impossible and may be not necessary to stop the globalization. What we need is to minimize and prevent its possible negative consequences.

Our organization has a great experience acquired in the Cold War era; that is why we must clearly announce that dictate of one state over others is not acceptable in the international relations. The new states, which emerged after collapse of the colonialism, accepted international law and exceptional role of the UN as a basis for their actions on the international arena. That's why we are alarmed with the attack on international law conducted by some Western states.

Third: I believe that AAPSO is able to tackle one of the main challenges of the modem world namely preventing terrorism and harmonization of international relations through maintaining dialogue of cultures and civilizations based on tolerance.

Let's recollect that it was exactly in Cairo more than 10 years ago right after the dangerous theory of Samuel Huntington on "clash of civilizations" sprang up, AAPSO organized the forum which rejected fatal inevitability of this clash.

Fourth: It is necessary to intensify attention of our organization towards the issues of the North and the South, as well as to the huge social exfoliation in the certain countries.

In this direction we could popularize and encourage states and societies, that stick to high standards of social principles.

Fifth: A separate strategic direction of our activity should be the program for youth, the projects for generations that want equal access to education and employment, as well as to spiritual and cultural values.

The objectives that I have mentioned as well as many other tasks, it seems to me, we could be translated in the countries of Asia and Africa through the national organizations and mass-media.

What we need is our own printed publications, audio-video production and certainly advanced internet site with rich content under the possible name «solidarity is in progress».

Thank you very much for your attention

Ambassador A.A.M Marleen *

Hotspots in the Middle East

I consider this a rare privilege to address this august gathering of leading intellectuals, politicians, lawyers and others who made their own significant contributions to highlight the cause of the developing world, to mark the golden jubilee of the Afro- Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization -AAPSO. The mere fact that we are meeting in Cairo, the city which played a crucial historic role in espousing the Third World and especially the burning issues in the Middle East, is all the more significant.

We are commemorating this golden jubilee at a time when the world, especially the developing countries and the Middle East region, starting to realize the great need for organizations such as AAPSO today more than ever in the past.

As we all know AAPSO came into being in 1958 at a time when the super power rivalry between the West led by the United States and the socialist bloc headed by the former Soviet Union was on the rise. The international political scene then was dominated by the Cold war with the two super powers intensely competing to drag developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America into their respective fold.

Under such circumstance it was a Himalayan task for the newly emerging countries to remain completely neutral. They had to

*** Secretary General of the Afro Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka and President's Counsel.**

align with one camp, for political, economic and strategic reasons, without compromising the sovereignty.

It was under such circumstance and critical hour in history that organizations such as AAPSO played a significant role in mobilizing the newly independent Asian, African and Latin American countries to preserve their independence while maintaining good relations with super powers. This policy in turn gave birth to Non Aligned Movement and AAPSO whose voice on numerous burning issues affecting Middle East and the developing countries, later came to be described as Third World, began to be heard louder and louder.

So much so the ever increasing numerical strength of the Third World countries in the United Nations General Assembly became a powerful factor to reckon with. In fact the UN General Assembly came to be dominated by the new nations and their views were expressed with greater domination to an extent that the United States, Europe and their satellite states felt even threatened. The US and even Europe started to ignore the United Nations.

It was under such international political scene that the former Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 resulting in the emergence of the United States as the sole and most powerful super power in known human history. The collapse of Soviet Union, and thereby the collapse of the socialist bloc, had a devastating political, economic, military and social impact in the developing countries which to a very great extent aligned with the Soviet Union and opted for state controlled socialist economies.

Organizations such as AAPSO and Non Aligned Movement were demoralized. Yet these countries had one consolation. And that was, now that the Soviet Union was no more and the super rivalry disappeared, the sole super, the United States, despite its long history of destabilizing developing countries while claiming to champion the cause of democracy, freedom and human rights, may bring about peace and harmony and the world would be a

better place for all.

But to the shock and surprise of the world the United States, ruled by powerful Jewish lobbies, weapons industry, oil companies, banks and financial sector, real estate, pharmaceutical industry, entertainment and media industry and other corporate conglomerates, began implementing their ruthless designs to take control over Asian, African, Middle East and Latin American countries and loot their resources.

In keeping with this plan the US led west started instigating, under a well planned program, conflicts after conflicts in strategic parts of the world and install puppet regimes to exploit their resources causing untold death and destruction to the people.

The so called New World Order advocated by US President George Bush Sr was nothing but a well calculated imperialist plot to create disorder in the developing world and the Middle East as, under this program, destructive wars were waged to change the political map and environment to suit their designs. In fact the globalization which paved the way for open economies and the program of regime change by means of war turned out to be two sides of the same US led western imperialist coin.

In other words it was indirect form of entering the Third World countries from where the European colonial powers withdrew after the World War II.

To cite few examples the US was responsible for engineering the destructive Gulf War triggered off by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. According to independent reports the United States encouraged then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, deposed and executed later by this very same United States, to enter Kuwait. Once Iraqi troops were in Kuwait the US, blocking all Arab efforts to solve the issue peacefully within the Arab ranks, set in motion its plan in full swing to invade Iraq and divide the Arab world.

The US blackmailed and mobilized a coalition to wage war under the guise of evicting the Iraqi troops. What happened

subsequently is common knowledge. Former President George Bush Sr, the architect of this conspiracy and carnage openly declared in his first statement after the war that the war made "Israel safe in the Middle East and the oil flows without any interruption".

The tragedy is that the US used Arab money, around $ 55 billion, to wage this war to make Israel safe and divide and destroy the Arabs. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi's were killed and Iraq was virtually crippled with the US and British sponsored United Nations economic sanctions, described by the UN official overseeing the enforcement of these sanctions, as "genocide".

The international political scene was such that developing countries despite forums such as Non Aligned Movement and AAPSO could only remain as spectators. In fact developing world became voiceless and helpless.

The task of destabilizing the Middle East, Muslim and developing countries was undertaken by President George Bush J from where his father former President George Bush Sr left. President Bush set in motion his global campaign against the Third World in general and the Middle East and Muslim countries in particular in the aftermath of the 9/11 events in New York and Pentagon. In its wake President Bush Jr, together with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Australia's defeated Prime Minister John Howard turned the, world into a virtual killing field. It is worthy to point out that all independent inquiries into 9/11 events exonerated the Muslims of any role whatsoever. But these disclosures were buried by the media which owned by corporate conglomerates was made integral part of their war machine.

Accusing Al Qaeda of masterminding the attack and the ruling Taliban of supporting Al Qaeda and its leaders the US backed by Europe unleashed a ferocious media campaign demonizing not only Al Qaeda and Taliban but, in the process, every Muslims men and women as terrorists to justify their wars.

In the footsteps of his father, within 27 days President Bush Jr blackmailed the world into another coalition and invaded Afghanistan, a pioneer non aligned country, and bombed this war ravaged and impoverished nation killing thousands and thousands of innocent men, women and children and the aged before installing a puppet regime and set up military bases to ensure the US domination of the region and easy access to vast Central Asian oil resource.

What could the developing countries do against an all mighty military super power which was hell bent on destabilizing countries with resources and shape the international political map to suit its agenda.

Not much especially in the context of the well orchestrated Western media campaigns which virtually brain washed people all over to believe that their military actions were justified.

Once again the developing countries were helpless spectators.

Then came the US led invasion of Iraq, yet another prominent Non Aligned country which was a pillar of support to AAPSO, to loot its oil wealth. This illegal invasion destroyed beyond recognition this almost developed country where people enjoyed a high standard of living. Today it is a killing field. More than a million innocent Iraqis were killed. More than two million Iraqi refugees driven to refugee camps in Syria, around a million in Jordan and half the population made refugees in their countries and bulk of the population suffer in abject poverty, hunger, disease and insecurity due to lawlessness.

While this once prosperous Arab country is now a wasteland the Anglo American oil giants and others looted the Iraqi oil wealth. Perhaps this is the New World Order Bush family envisaged for the Middle East and the Third World.

It was not the end of the carnage. One after the other many countries were turned into killing fields and wastelands. This included Somalia and Algeria, one of those countries which played

a very dynamic role in the Non aligned movement.

These destructive military campaigns which helped the multi billion dollar weapons industry, the merchants of death, to flourish at the blood and flesh of innocent people in countries which were turned into conflict zones.

In fact conspiracies involving wars, regime change, globalization and open economy under the so called New World Order only enabled US and European imperialist to rob the resources of these countries.

In all these US and European imperialist conspiracies the Zionist Jewish entity of Israel, planted by European colonial powers in the heart of the Arab Middle East, has been hand in glove playing a very crucial role.

Ever since the European colonial powers led by Britain helped Jewish terror gangs to drive out Palestinian from their homes and lands at gun points to refugee camps in neighboring countries to settle in their lands migrant Jews who had not even seen these lands to set up the Jewish State of Israel, the Middle East had suffered a great deal. These sufferings continue unabated even today with innocent people paying the price not only with their blood and flesh but also with their precious lives.

The US and Europe stand like solid rocks behind all Israeli crimes against Palestinians and others.

For example Israel, hand in glove with Britain and France, invaded Egypt in 1956. In June 1967 invaded neighboring countries and annexed East Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and Sinai. Then came the Israeli invasion of Lebanon killing more than 30,000 people and destroying that country's infrastructure. Israel promoted the eight year Iraq-Iran war, Gulf War and the US invasion of Iraq where Mossad agents even took part in torturing Iraqi prisoners and slaughtering Iraqi intellectuals. Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 2006 killed around 1200 innocent people and destroyed the newly built infrastructure there. But who

cares about Arab blood and destruction to their properties and livelihood?

I am glad to state here that AAPSO has been in the forefront in supporting the unfortunate Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle for liberation, freedom ,self determination, regaining their lands and return to their ancestral properties usurped.

And now comes the suffocating Israel's economic blockade of Palestinians in the Gaza strip. I would like to elaborate little more on the plight of Palestinians in Gaza in view of the seriousness of the situation there and will be highlighting the emerging role of AAPSO especially in the context of the realization within the developing countries of the need to check this US led Western tyranny.

Gaza, a small beach side strip by the Mediterranean Sea, sandwiched between Egypt and Israel with about 1.5 million Palestinians, is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Most of the inhabitants are refugees who traditionally owned their homes and lands in what we now call Israel. But they were chased out at gun point by Jewish terror gangs, and their lands grabbed by migrant Jews with the assistance of the British mandatory authority, to set up the Jewish state of Israel in Palestine in 1948.

What the world has conveniently forgotten is the fact that these Jewish terror gangs which committed some of the heinous massacres of Palestinians were led by people like Yithzak Shamir, Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon who were all elected prime ministers of Israel and the US and Europe now fighting a so called war on terrorism accepted them as dignified leaders despite their crime records. The imperialist hypocrisy was such that Menachem Begin who slaughtered the entire population of Deir Yassin was awarded the coveted Nobel Prize while President George Bush, supposed to be fighting a war on terrorism, rolled red carpet to receive Ariel Sharon, now in a life saving machine as a man of

peace.

As stated earlier during the June 1967 Israeli war of aggression Gaza was brought under Israeli occupation. Since then the people there were subjected to untold oppression, cruelties and miseries besides daily killings, arbitrary arrest and torture. Decades of Israeli oppression and humiliation produced angry young men most of whom are fighting back, though with limited means, the occupation and oppression as any people would do under attack.

Unable to face the fierce Palestinian opposition, Israel withdrew its forces from Gaza in 2005 after 38 years and handed over control of the Rafah border, Gaza's sole contact with the outside world, to Egypt while Palestinian forces, monitored by European Union officials, too were stationed.

Almost four decades of systematic Israeli oppression and repeated border closures have driven Gazans to poverty and inevitably around 80 percent of the population depends on food aid for day-to-day subsistence. Without such aid they would die in a matter of days. Such is the pitiable situation these poor people are in. Israel, heartless as it is, has on many an occasion blocked the food that relief agencies have been delivering to the people.

The current economic blockade on Gaza began in 1991. It was tightened with the institutionalization of the Israeli occupation enabled by the Oslo Accord of 1993. This cruel economic squeeze continued with greater intensification following the second Intifada in 2000. After Israel redeployed its settlers and troops Gaza was transformed into a prison the key to which, as stated by the UN's special rapporteur John Dugard, Israel had "thrown away."

Elections

In a spotless democratic election, held under the supervision of former US President Jimmy Carter who described it as free and fair in January 2006 Hamas, known for its integrity, commitment to the Palestinian cause and pursuit of peace with dignity, was

elected with an overwhelming majority.

This alarmed Israel, the US and their European collaborators who wanted Hamas crushed at any cost introduced measures to collectively punish the Palestinians for electing Hamas. Israel, backed by US and Europe, stopped all donations and cut off the flow of all money to starve Palestine into submission.

The US and Israel tried to instigate civil war between Palestinians and thus proving to the world its claim to promote democracy is a farce.

Under the guise of trying to free a captured soldier, Israel bombed Gaza Strip in June 2006 with its F-16 fighter planes and helicopter gun ships while artillery fire from tanks surrounded and turned Gaza into a virtual slaughter house. Within days roads, bridges, power plants, water supply, universities, schools, hospitals, play grounds, mosques and even tombs and ministry buildings were bombed and destroyed causing untold misery to the people already starving. In an unprecedented lawlessness, and the violation of international law, Israel started mafia-style abduction of Hamas cabinet ministers, mayors and parliamentarians.

As usual there was deafening international silence at this Israeli barbarity. This disgusting situation made the Congress of South African Trade Unions president Willie Madisha to describe the "apartheid Israel state" as worse than the apartheid that was in South Africa as Palestinians were being attacked with heavy machinery and tanks, which had never happened in South Africa.

Hamas eventually took over the whole of Gaza in June 2007. Since then 90 percent of Gaza's local industries too were forced to shut down, leaving 70,000 laborers jobless. There was no fuel to keep the plant running because Israel imposed a complete lock-down with no movement in or out of the Gaza Strip for people, or any kind of shipments in of vital food, fuel supplies and medicines.

It was a slow death. Palestinians in Gaza and even in the West Bank were made virtual prisoners in their own homes and in a dire economic situation while Israel continued its air strikes in the densely populated city. This was a grave war crime and it should be pointed out that in the aftermath of World War II German leaders were sentenced to death for lesser crimes.

This situation continued for 20 long months until 17 January 2008 when Israel imposed a complete blockade and shut down Gaza's only power plant, thus plunging the entire territory into chaos. They were only allowed to breathe the air which Israel could not blockade. As if these oppressions were not enough, Israel, the fourth largest military power in the world, fully backed by the US and Europe, declared war on Palestinians who had only stones and mortars to fight with.

People started queuing for bread, but there was no bread as it cannot be made without electricity. Connections with the outside world started fading as mobile phones and laptops ran out of battery power. There was no water because the pumps needed electricity. People could not go to work because there was no fuel for cars and buses. Hospitals with generators ran out of fuel to power them, halting all surgery procedures. Over 1000 Palestinians went out to the streets begging the world to end this cruel enforced starvation to death.

Princeton academic Richard Falk described Israel's siege as a "prelude to a genocide" while John Dugard, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories described it as serious violations of international law and in complete violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention which governs Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery said "The message of Jews, the US and Europe to Palestinian is that you will reach the brink of hunger, and even beyond, if you do not surrender. You must remove the Hamas government and elect candidates approved by

Israel and the US. You must be satisfied with a Palestinian state consisting of several enclaves, each of which will be utterly dependent on the tender mercies of Israel".

Unable to bear the suffocation, Hamas demolished the towering iron and concrete border wall that Israel erected since 2003 and broke open the Rafah border allowing hundreds of thousands to burst out and shop for desperately needed supplies in Egyptian border towns. In this unbelievable movement of joy and freedom they traveled by foot, car, truck and donkey cart. The highway was jammed with packed taxis and pick-up trucks and some journalists have called it a huge "jail break" and Gazans felt a deep exhale of relief and some joy -- both rare commodities in this forsaken land

World Response

The US was fully behind Israel supporting its oppression of Palestinians in Gaza while not a word of criticism came from Britain, the root cause of Palestinian sufferings, whose political system has been deeply penetrated and controlled by Jewish lobbies as is the case in the US too.

Omar Barghouti, an independent Palestinian political analyst and founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, asked why accuse Europe of collusion in this crime when almost the entire international community failed to lift a finger, and the UN's obsequious Secretary-General, who surpassed all his predecessors in obedience to the US government, is pathetically paying only lip service?

There is a great awakening among the developing countries of the need to come together to once again jointly seek means to protect their interests. This awakening is bound to provide a renewed vitality to the Non Aligned Movement and AAPSO which could once again play its dominant role, if not stop the US led imperialist tyranny and crime, at least to build up public opinion.

Mr. Margany Hassan Musa'ed*

Current Status in Sudan**

Mr. President, Dear Brothers and Sisters
Peace, Mercy, and Blessing be upon you,
Dear participants of our reverend conference,

We are gathering to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity, hosted in Cairo where we are accustomed–under whatever circumstance-to receive world liberalization and peace movements especially in the African and Asian continents. Furthermore, Cairo has embraced steadily and confidently all opposition movements striving against dictator governments in our countries, for instance: in Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Algeria, Ghana, Eritrea, and Congo; along with a prolonged list of African, Arab, and Asian countries. As we are dedicating this conference to the late Dr. Morad Ghaleb – May God rest his soul in peace-, we are to establish a new commendable tradition originated from the Afro, Arab, and Asian heritage. Morad Ghaleb has played distinguished combative roles in his capacity as the Egyptian Ambassador to Moscow, and later the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He had steadfastly stick to his principles towards issues of Arab-Israeli conflict despite the enormous pressures exerted upon him. Besides, he had dedicated his efforts and fights–later on-for the sake of the

*** Secretary General of the Sudanese Committee for Solidarity.**
**** Translated by: Mr. Hassan Thabet.**

Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO); the fiftieth anniversary of which is marked today.

Reverend Brothers and sisters,

The Sudanese Committee of Solidarity hails and asks God to have mercy upon all those who contributed to this organization development; participated in its meetings and conferences; added to its value by means of debate, activities; and translated its efforts into a tangible reality hovering amongst our welfare-seeking peoples. Amongst those people comes the late Yussef El-Siba'ey from Egypt, and Sheikh Ali Abdel-Rahman from Sudan. It is worth mentioning that the Sudanese Committee for Solidarity is one of the foremost committees established right after the AAPSO establishment in the wake of Bandung Conference. Its early members have experienced harsh circumstances, be it detention, military courts, imprisonment, displacement, exile, and expatriation for the sake of the Sudanese people's issue. They have forborne with patience for Sudan that has spent years under the brunt of occupation till 1956 year of independence, in which Sudan established a sound parliamentary and democratic regime. Unfortunately, this regime did not last for long that extended only for three years after which a military regime took over for six emaciating years – i.e. the coup d'état of November 1958 till October 1964. Afterwards, another revolution – October Revolution- took place against the military regime that restored democratic system once again and lasted for five years. It was followed by another demagogic military regime from 1967 till April's Intifada in 1985 – May/Nimeiry regime-. Democratic regime was restored once again and continued till 1989, the year which marked the take-over of the Islamic Front up till the day of this conference. Thus the Sudanese Committee for Solidarity has went through a long bitter struggle for the sake of restoration of democratic regime in Sudan; along with political parties, labor

organizations, civil society, and Sudan outer-advocates. Unfortunately, Sudan had witnessed Southern Sudanese War that was escalated and left hundreds of Sudanese dead, and more than two millions displaced.

Sudan has witnessed and still witnessing bitter strife in Darfur, which left hundreds of thousands of dead and injured Sudanese; along with tens of thousands of refugees and displaced citizens. Furthermore, National Sudanese parties have been brought together under the banner of (the National Democratic Congregation), which embodies a unique formula that brings together all Sudanese factions to combat coercive and dogmatic regimes, and to work collectively for the sake of freedom and democracy for our people.

The Sudanese Committee for Solidarity had –at a time- to leave Sudan and move its headquarters to Cairo where it can assume its activities with the rest Sudanese political forces. The Secretariat headquarters was the available haven whenever it was needed. Furthermore, the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity was the best supporter and advocate of Sudanese issues. In the name of our people and its officials allow me to extend salutations and best regards to the Committee and the Egyptian people that hosted our inflicted Sudanese people at a time of woe.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Throughout these fights that lasted for years against the regime in Sudan, many agreements were signed; none of which achieved any remarkable progress and whose articles were not efficiently carried out. Amongst these agreements come Naivasha agreement signed in January 9, 2005; Cairo agreement in June 16, 2005; Abuja peace agreement on Darfur in June 2006, and the peace agreement on eastern of Sudan in 2007. All these agreements could not put an end for the struggle for power, or stop war and devastation in Darfur. The Cairo agreement signed

between the National Democratic Congregation and Al-Khartoum government were not implemented, the pursued democratic change never took place, and truce was reached in eastern Sudan. Whatsoever achievement occurred was mere decoration to put on a faked graceful face of the regime. Freedom-restricting laws still existing and emergency law has been a prejudicing tormenting tool against Sudanese people since June 1989. Freedom of expression is not guaranteed, whilst the authorities have the right of detention without limits or restrictions. Due to such oppression, millions of Sudanese fled outside the country in pursuit of peace and security.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Detailed speech on Sudan is a non-ending matter which would be open for your interventions and questions later on. Still; in order to put an end for this dilemma, we request the following:

- An inclusive conference gathering all Sudanese people to reach a solution for Sudanese issue. This conference ought to cover every one, not to alienate or prefer any party over the other. This conference is commissioned to reflect on recent circumstances and find a solution for Sudanese problems as a whole.

- Running fair and transparent parliamentary elections in accordance with the signed agreements, preceded by creation of national government in which all parties are represented.

- Avoidance of any fractionation while solving Sudanese issues. It must be solved all at once from an unbiased national perspective.

- Taking Sudan as a partner in African and Arab issues due to its distinguished location and remarkable political history.

- Forcing foreign forces out of Sudan, from whatsoever nationality or magnitude; provided that Sudanese people would shoulder responsibility of preserving peace and security of Sudan

and its people in whatsoever place. Foreign forces herein refer to the United Nations' or the African Union's.

- Return of the refugees and the displaced Sudanese, with serious emphasis on immediate cease of war and clashes in Darfur –for instance- along with other Sudanese regions. AAPSO could be a major player in this issue in collaboration with Sudanese people.

We call upon the AASPO to:

- Refrain from any cooperation with any regime that comes to power by means of a military coup d'état or any civil dictatorial regime.
- Respect, support, and promote democratic regimes; and work for its development.
- Work for the revival of AAPSO activities so that it might reach the public who have the real interest, and activate its role.
- Issue a monthly magazine named after the Organization, to convey its message and show good indicators concerning solidarity amongst peoples; along with issuing periodical booklets and pamphlets.

Finally, allow me to express deep appreciation and respect for all the attendants; asking Allah the Almighty that we would manage to host you in Al-Khartoum when its circumstances get better, and when we feel more stable and secure in our homeland; as our last meeting in Khartoum took place during the age of the late martyr President Ismail Al-Azhary, Head of the Federal Party at that time.

Thank you for listening

Dr. Ahmed Ali Ibrahim*

Current Status in Iraq**

In all meetings and forums we encounter the same questions about the status quo in Iraq. Events, conflicts and controversies are always dealt with briefly to stop talking about the crime which violated the Iraqi people's rights and destroyed Iraq's 4 centuries of human heritage. None even thinks about what is happening as made up by the joint administration of the occupation, foreign forces, and international terrorism.

Talk is always focused on the occupation forces as they have toppled the regime and resistance. I myself, an Iraqi citizen, do not know the main features of that resistance, its aims, or leader. No one knows.

Well, let me then wonder about the truth. Participants have always had the same questions about the resistance. Those who claimed to be the resistance now carry weapons and work for the occupation forces!

Those who claimed to be nationalists are now calling for the foreign forces to continue their stay in Iraq. Those who disguised in a sectarian clock have been burnt by sectarianism.

Whoever wants to know what happens in Iraq, must listen to an Iraqi citizen, or the known democratic people who have had a history.

*** Secretary General of the Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity**
**** Translated By: Mrs. Hoda Osman**

Now what has happened?

- The occupation forces now have some sort of international backing.
- The decision of putting an end to existence of the occupation forces or extending the period of that existence in Iraq is, from the legal point of view, up to the Iraqi government or parliament.
- The civil war, promoted to have sectarian roots, is over.
- Despite Al-Qaida network is now weakened, killing is still spread out hither and thither.
- The neighboring countries that have paved the way for suicide bombers to go inside Iraq to kill Iraqi people, these countries have been trying to improve their stances.
- The political conflict is getting stronger in and outside the Parliament,
- Conflict for power, a conflict of will, is running over and over.
- Religious trends, of all kinds, have had remarkable achievements, while democratic forces are growing.
- Public freedoms have grown to become rather a state of choes.
- Democracy is growing slowly as begotten after a totalitarian regime which continued for 4 decades.
- Financial and administrative corruption has been the main obsession of both the government and the society.
- The media is getting the scene more and more dimming. There are more than 40 satellite T.V. channels in addition to more than 150 dailies. The right to write or publish is well open for all.
- Security has been relatively improved. The different forces of the society are now calling for their rights. Cases in point are: teachers, doctors, and the labor. Set-ins are launched every where. Fear is no more innate in authorities.
- Another scene: Iraqis are discussing their issues outdoors; inside and outside the Parliament. Every minute detail has turned to be an issue of conflict amongst the Iraqi people. Though never

discussed over 4 decades, the Iraqi budget is now a bone of discussion before all. It has not been endorsed by the Parliament for many times.

- Oil and Gas Law has not been passed. It is still discussed by different parties; most of whom have never even gone through its text. Here, I find those who claim that the US has come to steal the Iraqi oil.

- One of the big anachronisms is for a people to formulate life under the occupation bullets.

What is new about the Political scene?

- Conflicts have exhausted political powers and paved the way for a new conviction to be adopted by the most influential political powers. It holds that Iraqis should be governed by Iraqi citizens and none has the right to be the sole governing power.

Among new convictions are:

- Democracy has made a new specimen of the monopoly of power under an umbrella of strong social balances.

Hence, in our meeting in Baghdad, we called upon all political powers to discuss openly pivotal topics. Topics and questions are:

- The current power adjustment can solve the problem of democracy. Iraqis should all have the same rights and duties. It could be an umbrella of social security.

- Can we, after all, have the modern civilized State? We at the council call for that.

- Is the federal system the ideal solution to safeguard equal and full rights for all sects?

Until we reach somewhat possible solution, we believe that the peoples who love freedom and peace should support the Iraqi people with full respect to their choices. As for the foreign forces, their leaf would certainly be turned over through the solidarity with

our people.

I also call for your solidarity with our people vis a vis the Turkish aggression on our sovereignty

Mr. Doreid Yaghy*

Current Status in Lebanon**

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First: On this occasion, I would like to salute all those who struggle for making achievements in the Solidarity Committees and Permanent Secretariate. I thank also the Secretary General, Nouri Abdul Razzak.

I pay special tribute to the Egyptian committee and Egypt that, despite hardships, hosted the Organization regardless great changes.

And let me pay tribute onto the pioneering role played by the Late Morad Ghaleb, who worked honestly to preserve the Organization and its role under hard circumstances.

As for the future of the Organization and its present role vis a vis different challenges, I fully support the reports provided to the Conference by AAPSO Secretariat. It is rather eventual to face the different challenges of democracy, politics, economics and cultural variations. Besides, human rights should be fully respected. Here one may pin religious, ethnic and sectarian freedom; not to mention environment protection, demilitarization and disarmament.

I believe that south-south cooperation should be strongly

*** Lebanese Committee for Peace and Solidarity.**
**** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

affirmed so as to attain the worldwide solidarity vis a vis savage capitalist globalization leading the neo-colonization and imperialism as well as anti-globalization northern movements so that an alternative globalization may be established.

Second: As to Lebanon; Taif Agreement, which came out after severe conflicts, has laid the foundation for national reconciliation to be based on two main pillars namely independent Lebanon and the State's belonging to the Arab nation. This has been stipulated in the Lebanese constitution ratified by the Lebanese Parliament.

Hence, the Constitution and Taif Agreement are to be references for any local dialogue to reach the hoped-for solution. The national dialogue at the Parliament in 2005 could attain positive results in a short time despite the then environment following the assassination of Late Prime Minister Rafiq El-Hariri as well as other politicians, thinkers and media-men.

The crisis is now based in two main axes; the first of which is that some now reject the constitution and Taif Agreement which consequently meant holding institutions as inactive (the Presidency – the Parliament – inactive one-third of the government – the President if coming from the army – Internal Security Forces – the Economy). Second; For some Lebanon is considered as a place for clearing differences.

All through decades Lebanon faced bravely repetitive Israeli aggressions. The Lebanese resistance has managed the achieve of a historical victory over the Israeli army in 2000. Though Israel had to leave Lebanon, Sheba'a farms, captives and detainees are still suspended issues to be settled according to the Security Council resolution 1701 which Lebanon has accepted.

Besides, Lebanon suffered a lot as it turned to be an arena for clearing differences.

Ladies and gentlemen: Lebanon is committed to the Arab League resolutions, especially with regard to the conflict with Israel. Lebanon will never conclude a one-party agreement with

Israel after decades of conflict and war. However, it is rather illogical to face that all alone.

Since October 2004, Lebanon has passed by different events leading to wars and tens of martyrs. International investigation is currently run to find out plotters and stop the constant series of killings.

To solve the hurdle, an internal Lebanese dialogue should be re-established on the bases of national unity and respect of the constitution and national institutions. Elections should be held to name a president in addition to forming a democratic government. An election law must be the basis of a parliamentary election in 2009.

Establishing A State

Confrontation with Israel should be somehow defensive with full internal Lebanese support away from external interferences (UN resolution 1559). Lebanon must regain its position as a state with an elected president and activated parliament and government. Lebanon has always been, and will continue to be, an independent democratic state with various ethnic inclinations. It should not turn to be an arena to clear differences.

Lebanon is an Arab state, having relations with other sisterly Arab nations on the bases of equality, mutual respect and common fate,

The question then is clearly set before us all (Lebanese and Arabs)... Who would benefit from what happens now in Lebanon? Who can make benefit from what is happening in Palestine and Iraq? It is eventually Israel and the neo-colonists.

Let us think deeply about the matter and hurry toward bridging the Arab-Arab gap, for the benefit of Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Somalia, and Sudan. Or rather for the benefit of all issues of independence and Arab liberation,

I thank you for all speeches expressing solidarity with Lebanon vis a vis savage Zionism and colonization plotting.

Prof. Mohammed Arif

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentleman,

Introduction:

Before I speak on the subject, I would like to pay tribute to the Afro-Asian Solidarity organisation on its 50th anniversary. During this period, the organisation has tirelessly helped the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle for emancipation. The organisation through its thought-provoking ideas, publicity, coordination and cooperation inspired people throughout the world to unite for gaining liberation from imperialism, regaining their dignity, carrying out development and establishing peace and solidarity. The organisation has shown flexibility and ability to change and thus has managed to widen its campaign including such things as opposing the unjust international economic order; the unjust information order; racism and racial discrimination; environmental degradation and excessive exploitation by multinational corporations of developing countries. It has consistently campaigned for solidarity, democracy and human rights. The organisation has acted as a beacon of light for all those people who have wanted to build a better world.

On behalf of British AAPSO, I would like to pay homage to our leader and president of AAPSO, Dr Morad Ghaleb who is no longer with us. His commitment to the noble cause of justice and equality of all human beings has been a guiding principle in our

organisation. It was his able leadership which made the organisation a truly international organization. Now that he is no longer with us, others must take his place and be guided by his life and work. Memories of his gallant struggle for freedom, human rights and decency will stay with us for a very long time to come.

AAPSO's Cairo Conference 26-28 Feb 2008
Speech by Prof. Mohammed Arif

AFGHANISTAN

Thank you for inviting me to speak on the subject of Afghanistan. The Afghan conflict is the US's other war which has been taken over by NATO. This war is not as well reported as the Iraq war but the death, destruction and suffering of the Afghan people is steadily following those of the Iraqi people.

British AAPSO has the honour of been associated, from its very inception, with the Stop The War coalition in the UK. This is an organisation which mobilized 2 million people on the streets to demonstrate against the Iraq war. It was an achievement which has inspired people throughout the world against wars and occupation. The organisation is continuing to campaign against the war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. The organisation was not able stop the Iraq war but it did have some influence in preventing the next war, the war against Iran.

RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM

Thirty years ago, no one talked of religious fundamentalism, fanaticism and jihadism or suicide bombers. Most of the current problems concerning these issues have their origin in the support which the West gave to the forces fighting against the Afghan revolution of 1978.

Prior to 1978, most Muslim liberation movements in Asia and Africa were against western colonialism. These included uprisings

in such places as Sudan, India, Egypt, etc. These movements were partially based on religious ideology but were generally supportive of progressive reforms.

In the case of Afghanistan, Western countries empowered fundamentalist movements to fight against the revolution there. President Ronald Reagan, in March 1985, issued National Security Decision Directive 166 (NSDD166), which authorised the stepping up of covert military aid to the Mujahidin as well as giving support to religious indoctrination. The object of religious indoctrination was to secure the demise of secular education and institutions.

The US government gave a $51 m contract to the University of Nebraska to produce books in Pushto and Dari for the madrassas which were set up in Pakistan. These books, supplied to Afghan children, were filled with talk of jihad, contained violent images and contained drawings of guns, bullets, soldiers and mines. It is ironic that the same American produced textbooks are now being used in Taliban controlled schools as part of their core curriculum to fight against the West.

The US spent over $3 billion in assisting the arming and training of the Mujahidin. In Pakistan, 120 training bases were set up with the help of the ISI, the Pakistani intelligence agency. Prior to the CIA's covert operations in Afghanistan, opium production in Afghanistan and Pakistan was directed to small regional markets. There was no local production of heroin. Alfred McCoy's study (Drug Fallout, 1997) confirms that "within two years of the onslaught of the CIA operations in Afghanistan, the Afghan-Pakistan borderlands became the world's top heroin producer, encouraged both by the CIA and the ISI". McCoy gave testimony before Rep. John Conyers of the Congressional Black Caucus in February 1997 linking CIA secret operations and drug trafficking. He further pointed out (US turns blind eye to Heroin trade, 2003) "beginning around 1982, Pakistani trucks carrying

CIA weapons from Karachi to Pesha war (Pakistan Intelligence Agency)often picked up heroin on their return journey. They were protected from search by ISI papers".

Many present day "fundamentalist" organisations in the Middle East, South and Central Asia, were directly or indirectly; the product of US covert support and financing. The interesting thing those who were architects of covert operations in Afghanistan in 1980s also played a key role in the "Global War on Terrorism" in the wake of 9/11. The main personalities included Richard Armitage, Paul Wolfowitz, Lewis Libby, Salmay Khalizad and Robert Gates. All these people held key positions in both Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush's administrations. In this sense, there is continuity.

WESTERN MEDIA

The Western media did not keep it a secret, as on 2nd February 1979 the Washington Post reported that Afghan guerrillas were being trained in Pakistan. The Christian Science Monitor reported on 9th August 1979 that Afghan rebels were being trained and armed inside Pakistan. Mrs Thatcher herself went to Peshawar and pointed a gun towards Kabul, asking the Mujahidin to go and defeat the godless Afghan revolutionaries.

OUR WARNING

At that time, we pointed out through several letters in the British press that the Mujahidin would one day turn against their sponsors. The West was creating a Frankenstein that would eventually attack its master. The blowback of these activities would be disastrous for the Americans and its allies.

ESTABLISHED FACT

It is an established fact that initial opposition to oppressors does not come from those who have suffered under them but from

those who are fed and pampered by them. The French revolution (1789) was started by members of the nobility; the Indian war of Independence (1857) Was started by British recruited and trained Indian soldiers known as sepoys, the Cuban revolt against Spain (1885) was started by the Cuban landed gentry and now in Afghanistan the same thing is happening.

A distinguished academic who had access to the British Foreign Office told me at the time that they were aware that their actions would lead to a growth in religious fundamentalism and fanaticism but it would be controlled within 20 years. What was most important to them was to undo the Afghan revolution. The unintended consequences of these actions have made ordinary people pay the price in the West, in Afghanistan, in Pakistan and many other countries.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Look at the geography and history of Afghanistan. There is a total lack of knowledge about it. Afghanistan is a landlocked state. Pakistan is to the southeast, Iran to the west, China to the north-east and Tajikistan to the north. Afghanistan means "the land of the Pashtuns" Pashtuns make up 60% of the population, Tajiks 20% and the remainder are of other nationalities. Pashtun tribes are partly in Afghanistan, partly in Pakistan. Afghanistan became a unified country in 1747.

AFGHAN WARS FOR INDEPENDENCE

In the 19th Century, Afghanistan became a buffer state between the British Empire and the Russian Empire. However, Afghanistan constantly tried to be independent of both. Three times, the country was unsuccessfully invaded by the British. Perhaps, Mr Blair thought they would be fourth time lucky.

1839 - 42

The first Afghan war took place between 1839 and 1842. The British attacked Afghanistan under the pretext of halting Napoleon's possible advance from the north and containing Tsarist influence. The invading army was completely wiped out - out of 17,000 British and Indian soldiers only one army doctor survived to report the disaster.

1878

The second Afghan war took place in 1878. Britain attacked Afghanistan under the pretext that Afghanistan was receiving Russian missions. The invading army was cut to ribbons but Afghanistan accepted British control over the country's foreign policy to ensure peace.

1919

The third Afghan war took place in 1919. Following the war, Afghanistan gained full independence from Britain over its foreign policy affairs. Britain never again interfered directly into Afghan affairs but did indirectly by supporting conservative clergy and tribal leaders who eventually managed to remove King Amanullah Khan from power. Tony Blair sent forces hoping British will be 4th time lucky.

KING AMMANULLAH

King Amanullah Khan's period was the golden age in the history of Afghanistan. He tried to bring about socio-economic change in the country by opening schools for boys and girls, conducted some land reform, opened hospitals and carried out public works. He assisted with the setting up of an Indian provisional government to fight for the liberation of India.

He was overthrown by an alliance of feudal lords, conservative clergy and imperialists. It is worth mentioning that when

reactionary forces lead by Bacha Saka, once a professional bandit, occupied Kabul, they looted the citizenry of Kabul for a complete 3 days. Most of his reforms were reversed. It may be worth noting that Britain even at that time used religious fundamentalists to overthrow a reforming king.

THE APRIL REVOLUTION

The April 1978 (Saur) Revolution was carried out by uniting two socialist parties: Parchan (Flag) and Khalqe (People). In fact, it was part of a continuing struggle of the Afghan people to bring about socio-economic change in their society. They formed themselves into the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. As the popularity of these parties was increasing, Daud, who was the president at the time, tried to arrest PDP A leaders. This triggered a classic revolt leading to Daud being killed. Three days later, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was declared and Taraki was declared president. Moscow didn't encourage the revolution but, recognised it immediately.

The April revolution of 1978 was not a reckless or freak phenomenon. It was inevitable because it was the culmination of the Afghan peoples' struggle for centuries to fashion their own destiny.

Louis Dupre, an expert on Afghanistan, who had lived in Kabul and watched the events unfold during the revolution, wrote in the New York Times of 20th May 1978 that the leaders of the revolution were nationalists and revolutionary personalities. They had never expressed loyalty to any country other than Afghanistan.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

The revolution was not a socialist revolution, but a national democratic revolution: all segments of society participated in it not just peasants and workers. It had modest aims such as the

legalisation of trade unions, land distribution, steps to improve the status of women which had hardly changed in a thousand years; cancellation of debt owed by peasants and a massive literacy drive. Within two years of the revolution, membership of trade unions had reached 350,000 and land reform had made a direct assault on the vested interests of dominant groups and families. Cancellation of debt owed by peasants provided relief to over 11 million struggling men, women and children. The revolution was considered too dangerous to be allowed to flourish by surrounding states, the United States and its allies. This was due to three main reasons. Firstly, it had tried to lessen the burden of centuries of poverty and oppression. Secondly, it had taken help from socialist countries. It may be worth noting that during the British miners strike, Afghan trade unionists contributed £10,000 to the miners strike fund. Thirdly, Afghanistan is located at the crossroad of three important regions: South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. The spread of Afghan ideas of social, political and economic reforms would have had a phenomenal effect on the region.

All the surrounding countries in fact encouraged counter-revolutionaries to undo the revolution. The revolution was boxed in. From one side, Mujahidin were sent from Pakistan, Iran was supporting its own brand of Mujahidin. The country had no choice but to request assistance from the then Soviet Union.

THE GUARDIAN

The revolution was, however, getting stronger. The Guardian's chief foreign correspondent, Jonathan Steele, having made an extensive visit to Afghanistan in 1988, reported in several articles at the time that the revolution was succeeding and there was no way the Mujahidin could defeat it.

Under an agreement between the then USSR and the United States in 1990, it was agreed that neither side would be supported. The fact is that the Afghan government's assistance

was cut while counterrevolutionaries continued to receive assistance from the West. Therefore, the Mujahidin coalition took power in 1992. They, however, started fighting among themselves and proved incapable of forming a stable government.

The US wanted to build an oil pipeline from central Asia to Pakistani ports, from where it would be possible to ship oil and gas to the US. The job was given to UNOCAL, a multinational company. The Mujahidin was not able to control the entire country, often fighting amongst itself. Therefore the US switched its support to the Taliban. The Taliban defeated the Mujahidin with considerable help from Pakistan and the United States. In fact, their leaders were invited to Washington as guests of UNOCAL and met George W. Bush.

9/11

After 9/11, the United States attacked Afghanistan under the slogan of the "War on Terror", defeated the Taliban and established a puppet regime led by Hamid Karzai. Karzai was previously a hotelier in the United States. He was brought in by the CIA and installed as President. Therefore a new phase of conflict started in Afghanistan.

NATO went into Afghanistan on the pretext that they wanted to establish democracy, eliminate terrorism and resistance, and eliminate drug production and trade. None of their objectives have been achieved:

DEMOCRACY

Occupation authorities have held elections in Iraq and Afghanistan. These were sham elections because any elections held under occupation can neither be seen as fair nor impartial, and those elected will have no credibility. Therefore the control of Karzai runs only in some parts of Kabul. He has no popular support. The present Afghan army mainly consists of Tajiks and

Uzbeks, very few Pashtuns have joined it despite being the majority in the country. The desertion rate is 25%. It is unlikely to be able to defend any western backed government in the foreseeable future.

ELIMINATION OF TERRORISM AND RESISTANCE

It must be noted that toppling foreign regimes is a dangerous and unpredictable business. But when invasion becomes occupation, the resistance becomes unstoppable. According to a report in the Independent (Nov 2007) the slogan among the Taliban for Western forces is: "you have the watches but we have the time", In other words, support for the war in the west will not continue for ever.

At present, there are 57,250 NATO troops in Afghanistan but fighting is carried out mainly by British, American, Dutch and Canadian soldiers. Other NATO countries have stationed their soldiers in areas where there is very little risk of conflict.

Tony Blair sent British soldiers in support of the American adventure promising that British soldiers would be given whatever they needed. He knew very well that such resources were not available; Britain could not provide these resources economically and militarily. It is estimated that at least 50,000 troops are needed to control Helmond province alone and not 7800 as stationed at present.

It may be worth noting that the West uses the generic word "Taliban" for all those who are fighting against NATO forces. The truth of the matter is that it is made up not only of religious fanatics but also Pashtun nationalists, warlords and all other elements against the occupation.

It is no surprise that in the recent Pakistan elections, Pashtun nationalist party (NAP), which opposes Western Presence in Afghanistan, swept the polls in North West Province, which is one of the sources of trained fighters. Pakistan has committed over

80,000 soldiers to control the area. But having taken massive casualties, all operations in Waziristan and surrounding regions have ceased.

The war on terror is turning everyone in the tribal region bordering Pakistan and some areas within the North West Frontier province into potential guerrillas - disparate tribes such as Durrani, Achakzai, Kakerzai, Masood, Kheel, Yousuf Zai, Mohmond and Afridi, who have not always been friendly to each other, are getting united against foreign invaders.

The position is that when British, Canadian and American troops achieve temporary dominance in one area due to superior technology, the Taliban slip away elsewhere. Moreover, the Western military strategy of aerial bombardment in support of ground troops is having a counter-productive effect on the loyalty of ordinary Afghans.

DRUG PRODUCTION AND TRADE

So far as opium production is concerned, NATO has totally failed in reducing its production. The 2007 UN report says that there has been explosive growth in opium production in Afghanistan. Drug production has risen by 34% this year. In Helmand province, which is under the control of British troops, opium production has risen by 50%. This is despite billions of dollars having been spent in efforts to curb opium production since 2001.

We must remember that there is now an agreement between the Taliban, opium growers and drug traffickers. The Taliban provides protection to drug traffickers but in return they share in the proceeds. This enables the Taliban to finance their fight against the West. In fact, the Taliban pays its fighters higher wages than the Afghan government pays its soldiers.

Afghanistan Opium Cultivation in hectares

1990	**2006**	
41,300	165,000	a 4-fold increase

United Nations, 2007

Opium productivity per hectare is also rising. The drug trade now constitutes 60% of GDP and 90% of exports. 3.3 million people work in it and hundreds of towns depend on it. Many of Karzai's own ministers, provincial governors, police chiefs and warlords are involved in it. Moreover, some reports reveal that Afghans have started to bring in machinery for opium processing which used to be done in Pakistan and Iran, so giving them a higher percentage of the overall take. It is estimated that the Taliban's income is over 1.5 billion dollars per year.

CONCLUSION

So long as western forces keep occupying Afghanistan and Americans keep on bombing, the Taliban leaders will be able to recruit jihadis from Pashtun areas, both in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and will be able to pay for them through the drug trade.

So long as there is a puppet government supposed to be ruling the country drug production, corruption, poverty and terrorism will continue.

It is an unwinnable war, yet western soldiers are being sacrificed to placate George Bush and his allies. Moreover, in spite of the unwillingness of some countries to send their soldiers into dangerous areas, the spectre of military defeat of the most successful military alliance in history is haunting NATO leaders, keeping the war going. At the same time, the insurgency is intensifying. Thousands of civilians have died resulting in increased hostility to occupying forces and a desire for revenge

which has also recruited thousands to fight the occupiers.

The longer the occupiers think that they can defeat resistance on the ground, the more young soldiers will die and the stronger the resistance will become. The greater risk will be if Pakistan starts to fall apart. North West Frontier is already slipping away from Pakistan because of the province's cultural and tribal affinity to Afghanistan. The greater possibility is that Iran might get sucked in and the entire area may be destabilised.

The only solution is that Western powers should declare a date for withdrawal and invite forces from countries which may be acceptable to Afghans. These forces should come with a fixed timetable for arrival and departure. They should maintain law and order and hold jirgas (assemblies of elders and tribal chiefs). This could eventually lead to impartial elections and the election of a representative government that should be assisted by the United Nations to curb drug production and establish law and order.

END

Ambassador Said Kamal*

May Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon you
Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch,
Chairman of AAPSO
Dear Guests,
Dear brother and friend Nouri Abdul Razzak,

Mr. Dzasokhov our honorable guest whom we met 20 days ago here in Cairo to commemorate Dr. Ghaleb, May the Grace of ALLAH be upon his soul,

I wish to start by saying that when I was chosen to deliver a speech in this session I preferred not to write down my thoughts, because I was ordered by my physician not to exert too much effort. I suffered a serious stroke, but now I recovered thank to ALLAH. I wish also to reassure Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch that I will not be standing too long, because I am ordered not to do so. At the outset I must say that I was no stranger to AAPSO; my knowledge of the Organization dates back to the world student movement. We believe in the work of this prestigious Organization. Yesterday I heard a serious point of view about the Organization and I think it will not undermine our celebration today. It was said that AAPSO will collapse as other organizations

*** Former Secretary General Assistant for the Palestinien Issues in the Arab League.**

- Translated by: Mr. Hassan Thabet.

did in the aftermath of the Cold War. This is very serious to say, and I want every one of you to offer his suggestions on how to maintain AAPSO, and how can the Organization turns into a popular deterrence force to American policies in our region and the world, and the policies of any other country that seeks to undermine the independence of developing countries. This should be our slogan that would acquire more significance if translated into joint programs implemented by our nations in their respective countries.

The topic I am here to talk about needs volumes, because it is about the hotspots of tension and terrorism. Since the old days of colonization, throughout Zionist occupation and arriving at the new type of imperialism, the world was always raging with tension. Who could remind me of one single day that was void of tension, political or military? The most flagrant of all is the Arab-Israeli conflict. But who was behind rooting terror in our lands?

I recall Mr Farouq Al Shar' in the Madrid Peace Conference when he addressed Shamir and the attendees about the document of terror that was disseminated by the Aragon in Palestine under the British mandate. The Palestinians, as other Arab nations, were not familiar with terror. The legitimate right of nations to resist occupation was turned into terror and civilians killing. We did not know the reasons, just as a doctor misses the diagnosis and ultimately gives a wrong treatment.

If we move from the 1940s, which witnessed the struggle for the independence of Israel, which is historic Palestine, to the 1960s, we shall find the Israeli gangs invading the village of Somo', completely destroying it. No one talked about terror or killing. The gangs wanted to make use of the reservation declared by the Arab countries contiguous to Palestine during the reign of President Gamal Abdulnaser, so they raided the village and committed their crime. As a Palestinian, you will not think of culture or political affiliation, you will only think of revenge and

retaliation. In the 1950s and 1960s we held the slogan of revenge which still holds until today as a rule of thumb but with some modifications. We found another way to say to the world that we are no terrorists, in deeds not in words.

The whole world wanted peace for Israel within safe and recognized borders; those who refused were the Palestinians and some Arab countries. We thought of not destroying Israel to end the pretext of the United States and others, and instead we thought of dividing historic Palestine into Modern Palestine and Israel proper. This is a lengthy talk and I shouldn't go on lest you think I am defending any side. But the truth is that when we started the peace process we made mistakes, but our true aim was to end the pretext of Israel and those who support it, and prepare for restoring our rights even if the process lasted for generations.

Shimon Peres was once asked in Prague "why did Israel choose this area?", and he replied saying that "colonists believed this was an important area, we wanted a State for Israel and we were offered the choices of Palestine and Uganda. Peres was again asked" so you did not forget that you are an Israeli?" he said "No", then the person cornered him saying" so why do object to Palestinians being Palestinians? If you claim the right for yourself you need to admit others can also do".

This was the first instance when Israeli claims were cornered. We embarked on the peace process, starting with the idea of terrorism. We admitted that highjack of planes was a mistake, a type of revenge disapproved by any Arab country or any Palestinian faction.

We came to Cairo in 1985; 37 leader representing all Palestinian factions. We signed the Cairo Declaration on terrorism, but Israel said it was not enough. What is sufficient for Israel?

Proceeding forward with the peace process was sufficient to

Israel. So we moved to Madrid whilst a Jordanian delegation is observing elections in Jerusalem. Again Israel banned elections in Jerusalem. We did not give up the hope because we are defending our rights. I asked Late President Yasser Arafat, and by the way yesterday I attended a celebration organized by a foundation holding his name, if he was after the peace process for the sake of peace or fight with Israel? I warned him that Israel is not toothless, he was tolerated by Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, but in Israel you he has no kinships. I told him "If you choose peace you will pay dearly, keep out in Damascus or in Cairo". Even President Mubarak invited him to Al Arish. This is the first time this is said but God Knows I am telling the truth. Who was the one who said that the Oslo Agreement was the first step towards the implementation of the land-for-peace formula? It was dear Mr. Al Shar', and I have his statement written by himself and when I was in Damascus I reminded him of it and he asked me if I have it really and I said I have a copy. Even accusing Syria of standing against peace was false. Mr. Farouq Al Shar' wrote this while Abu Ammar stood and embraced him. This story is only to testify that we are after peace.

Dear Brothers, before the fifteen minutes end I must say that our brethrens in Hamas gave Israel what it is looking for. I do not refer here to inclinations or objectives. I already told Hamas what I told you today. Hamas attended the Arab Summit in Tunisia, in which brother Farouq Al Kadomy offered a bill that define civilians in time of conflict. But Israel is not looking for a definition of civilians; she is looking for the killing of civilians by Hamas so that the Palestinians would be deprived of their right to homeland.

Israelis kept on repeating claims since the assassination of Rabin. They claimed he was killed due to religious motives because he wanted peace and embarked on it. Hence, an Israeli military "fatwa" was issued to terminate him and throw the blame on the Palestinians, as if they were the terrorists, not Israel.

I explained terrorism from this platform not to accuse Hamas, on the contrary, we have certain demands that need be voiced from this platform of AAPSO in order to restore Palestinian national unity as soon as possible, and a meeting can be arranged for this purpose in any Arab capital.

May Peace and Blessings of ALLAH be upon you.

Mr. Phan Van Chuong

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to make a few remarks on what has been called on so far war on terror or war against the terrorism. We all know that six and half years have elapsed since the U.S. and the coalition led by the U.S. sent to forces into Afghanistan launching a war against it supposedly to Iranian terrorism but terrorist still pose a serious fate to much of the world now.

Terrorist source blood continues to spill over from one country to another from central Asia and Middle East to South East, South Asia and Europe. Six and a half years have elapsed since the Taleban regime was a wrested from power as a punishment for harbouring Osama Ben Laden and Al-Quida, but Al-Quida remains moderately operation not only in Afghanistan but also elsewhere and Ben Laden is still no where to be seen but only somewhere to be heard or to be seen from time to time on T.V. Although he was to be captured, whether dead, or alive was initially proclaimed a primary objective of the world on terrorism. Why have the mightiest military power in the world plus many of its powerful allies in the so costly war against the terrorism something must have gone wrong somewhere, I suppose, and I am thinking of the following things; **First:** the number one target of the war must have been neither Ben Laden nor Al-Quida but the

strategic situation of Afghanistan and the abundant oil resources of Russia. **Second:** to deal efficiently with the international terrorism should be taken multilaterally by the international community under the United Nations and on the bases of respectful international laws and the sovereignty of nations instead of unilaterally by a number of countries in this respect of the United Nation Charter and the United Nations member states. **Third:** Actions should not be exclusively military since the terrorism only has its roles in the exploitation and operation in justice and ethnic religious and social discrimination cultural terrorism therefore involves a comprehensive combat closely linked with eradication and poverty reduction, development along with social progress and a peaceful and social life. **Fourth:** the use of state power to brutalize the people living under and struggling against the foreign occupation constitutes a grave form of terrorism and in such it can only buy oil on the flames of terrorism instead of extinguishing them.

Thank you

Mr. Pavlos Kalosinatos *

Dear comrades, dear friends,

Allow me at first on behalf of the Cyprus Solidarity Committee (CSC) and all its member organisations to pay our homage to the late Dr. Morad Ghaleb who will always be remembered for his unconditional dedication to the cause of peace and anti-imperialist internationalism. Dr. Morad Ghaleb with his whole life, whether as a national politician or as a historical leader of AAPSO, will always be an inspiring example for all peoples of the world fighting for national liberation, independence, social progress and justice.

Allow me also to convey to the leadership of AAPSO and all its members the cordial greetings and congratulations of the Cyprus Solidarity Committee by the occasion of its 50th anniversary. AAPSO was founded 50 years ago to mobilise international solidarity for all the peoples of Africa and Asia struggling for national liberation and independence. It was created and has developed to an international organisation mobilising against neo-colonialism and imperialism. I come from a country that has many reasons to be grateful to AAPSO. AAPSO has always been an active and consistent companion of our struggle against Turkish occupation and division of our country, as well as a great supporter of our efforts for reunification.

*** Cyprus Solidarity Committee.**

Dear friends,

We, at the Cyprus Solidarity Committee consider the Middle East issue as one of the most important issues and challenges, the humanity and the peace movement in particular is faced with today, not only because it is a key component for peace and security in the world, but also due to the continuous suffering of the peoples of the region.

In the current period of the imperialist new world order, war continues to trouble our planet. In Iraq the war, the continued occupation of the country by the USA and their coalition forces are now spreading death and destruction on a daily basis, leading the population of the country to misery and to civil war and the country on to a path of generalised destabilisation with unpredictable consequences for the Iraqi people and the peoples of the surrounding region. Their declared plans for a so-called new Middle East do not stop at the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. The implementation of the plans of the USA and their allies in the region have advanced to a new stage, through the barbarous attack of Israel against Lebanon last year and the intensification of the attacks against the Palestinian people, whilst the launching of threats against Syria end Iran reveal the possible future targets of American aggression.

The puzzle of the extension of the world supremacy of the powerful of the earth aiming at the control of all the regions of geo-strategic, economic and energy importance is complemented by the instigation of old and new regional conflicts in Africa and Asia or even also through direct or covered attempts to overthrow regimes and to destabilise countries which have democratically chosen to follow a progressive course, as is the case in Central and South America.

Dear friends,

Imperialist wars are not a unique phenomenon of contemporary time. They characterise the overall evolution of capitalism in its

monopolistic stage of development. After the break up of the Soviet Union and the community of socialist countries in Europe, imperialism and particularly American imperialism, advanced without facing powerful resistance. On political level contemporarily crucial changes are taking place which are especially worrying. Unfettered capitalism in the current phase of economic globalisation, in combination with American monocracy, is obviously making the world returning to the age of barbarity.

Historically considered, the geographical location of the Middle East was significant all through the ages. Since the discovery of huge oil stocks in the 20th century, this geo-strategic significance has rapidly increased and has marked the developments in the Middle East. The notorious doctrine of "divide and rule", as it was implemented in Palestine in 1948, as well as in Cyprus in 1959, have to be considered and understood in relation with the intention of the imperialist powers for domination and gaining control over the region.

In the last 60 years the situation of the people in the Middle East has got more and more precarious and fatal, since the region increasingly won on importance. We could even say that the factor of importance of the region is increasing together with the price of oil at the stock markets.

In the so-called «New World Order» the effort for imperialist domination and control over Middle East became highest priority. The Gulf wars in 1991 and later in 2003 are a reflection of these developments. The formulation of the concept for a «New Middle East», as it was propagated by the US-Americans after the invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 indicated that imperialism is decisive to proceed in a more systematic manner in the region. The continuation of Iraq's and Afghanistan's occupation, as well as the US threads directed against Iran and Syria has to be attributed to the "New Middle East" project. Statements of US officials resolve any doubts that also the 34 days long aggression

of Israel against Lebanon in summer 2006 has to be understood also as an integral part of the same project.

Israel is a vital ally of the imperialist control strategy in Middle East. Turkey is also an important link in this strategy. This explains why the USA and its closest allies have always generously supported Israel and Turkey to develop to regional military superpowers, encouraged the conclusion of military co-operation agreements between them and provided them with all necessary political and diplomatic support to secure the continuation of their aggressive foreign policy. This is again the case with the invasion of Turkey in northern Iraq.

Of course, it is not only the US that is looking with desire and great expectations at the Middle East. Unfortunately an attempt also by the European Union to formulate a common foreign policy is being observed which at times can give the impression of adopting a different stand, however in essence it remains in consonance with the interests of the powerful forces of the Union and European capital. The ever more increasing invocation of the particular strategic, economic and energy interests of the EU, as well as of the clear-cut effort to militarise the so-called common foreign policy, are characteristic examples of its hegemonic intentions. Thus in the near future, the antagonisms for the control of the Middle East between the capitalist centres will intensify and the people of the region may be confronted with new conflicts and bloodsheds.

In view of these developments and pessimistic prospects for peace and security in the region, the peace and solidarity movement should have clear positions opposing the USA's and their closest allies interventions and plans in the region and certainly all over the world. To the same extend clear should also be the opposition of the peace movement towards the militarisation of European Union and the intention of Brussels to become a world policeman. No hesitation should bear the peace

and solidarity movement as regards the condemnation and rejection of Israel's criminal policies and inhuman practises against Palestine, Lebanon or any other neighbour country.

Dear friends,

We should, both on national, regional and international level, actively express our solidarity and support to the struggling peoples of the region.

This solidarity and support has clear content and demands, aiming at a final and sustainable settlement of all disputes in the region, for the benefit of lasting peaceful existence and prosperous development for all peoples of the wide Middle East area. Practically this means:

* The withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab occupied territories" (including Golan Heights and Sheba farms);

* The restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and immediate termination of the blockade imposed to supposedly control weapons supplies to country;

* The unconditional, complete and immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces from Iraq and from Afghanistan and leave the peoples alone to decide for their own future;

* The resumption of comprehensive peace negotiations for the completion of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state in the borders of 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The newly held Palestinian - Israeli conference in Annapolis, initiated be the US president outside of the UN frame, obviously does not represent any positive perspective. This process is not in conformity with real and just expectations of the Palestinian. Very important issues such as the demolition of the wall, which is dividing Palestine in thousand pieces and thus undermines the territorial integrity of the country, does not address the issue of the boarders of Palestine and Israel, neither the issue of release of political prisoners and the repatriation of refugees;

* Stop of all threats of military aggression and of economic sanctions directed against Syria and Iran;

* Withdrawal of all occupation armies in the region, including the Turkish army in Cyprus and withdrawal of all foreign military bases;

* Immediate termination of Turkish invasion in North Iraq that may lead the region to a further destabilisation;

We finally believe that in order to promote the above mentioned goals we need more and more co-ordinated action. We are therefore considering with great satisfaction the efforts initiated with this conference to revitalise AAPSO. In the yesterday's session, which was dedicated to the contemporary role of AAPSO, a lot of ideas have been put forward. A lot of speakers have expressed their agony for the future of AAPSO. We believe that this conference should end up with the adoption of a resolution paving the way for convening the next congress of AAPSO. We also believe that this effort to revitalise AAPSO should emphasise on the reformation of the structure of AAPSO, on safeguarding more mobilisation of forces from all regions (for example from the southern part of Africa), as well as on shifting towards movements oriented structures.

Dear friends and comrades,

I will take up this opportunity to refer to the Cyprus problem and present the position Cyprus Solidarity Committee. We remain committed to the solution of the problem as soon as possible and do not accept the continuation of the status quo, which means continuation of occupation of part of our country by Turkey and unnatural division of its territory and people. We continue to demand and struggle towards a federal, bi-communal, bi-zonal federation on the basis of the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 and the respective UN resolutions. The rejection of the Annan Plan by the Greek-Cypriots in 2004 cannot and should not

be interpreted as a rejection of the reunification of Cyprus and acceptance of the division. On the contrary, the reasons which led the Greek-Cypriots to say "no" should be seriously taken into consideration if any new effort to solve the problem is to be successful.

We hope that the mobility which has developed recently will have a positive outcome. The 8th of July agreement has initiated a new process for the creation of preconditions that could contribute to the achievement of an overall settlement. Progressive forces have worked hard for the achievement of this agreement, which we believe can be utilised towards the right direction. The interconnection of matters of everyday life with issues concerning the substance of the problem will contribute to the preparation of the ground for commencing substantial negotiations under the UN. Thus we believe that the implementation of this agreement should begin the soonest and call the interested parties to engage in this process in a productive and fruitful manner, so as to accommodate the start of substantial negotiations leading to bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, providing political equity among its constituent components and single sovereignty, international personality and citizenship.

Cyprus has elected last Sunday a new president. The Cypriots have elected for the first time in the history of the Republic of Cyprus a left president. This fact provided for bold headlines in all international media. But Cyprus has elected more than a left president. Cyprus has elected Demetris Christofias as a president, a man who has, together with his party AKEL, always been fighting with consistency for the reunification of our country and people, for the promotion of peace, social justice and progress for all communities in Cyprus. Cyprus has elected a president who enjoys popularity in both the Turkish and Greek-Cypriot community and thus can mobilise unity of all Cypriot citizens for the cause of reunification. Cyprus has a president who is decisive

to work hard and flexible for a just and viable resolution of the Cyprus problem. Last but least: Cyprus has as president an internationalist.

Long live peace and anti-imperialist solidarity

Thank you very much!

Mr. Abdel-Nabi Solaiman*

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), we respectfully hail the Late Dr. Morad Ghaleb and all strugglers of our Organization such as Mr. Ahmed El-Zawadi, who died in Bahrein last year and was hailed by AAPSO.

On this occasion we must have an overview on mutual independence in the current world of globalization, where the US interests play a domineering role.

The area of Al-Khalig (Gulf) and the neighboring areas are rich with oil and natural gas resources. Though actually producing 22.8% and 7.1% of world oil and natural gas respectively, this is much less than the areas share of world reserves. Statistics have pointed out that the Gulf area may continue producing increasingly of their strategic reserves by 7.2% up till the year 2030.

Hence, the US control over the area and its wealth safeguards the US interests as well as the US domination over the world. These interests have once needed some sort of revision for the legal system, human rights issues, administration, and politics in the area. So, the US has called for some democratic changes at

*** A member of the Bahrain Delegating.**
- Translated By: Mrs. Hoda Osman.

the early years of the millennium. However, it has managed to have some bilateral free trade agreements in the area on somewhat individual basis. On the other hand, the US has been working to activate weapons trade with the ultimate aim of activating military industries and other economic sectors. That has led, consequently, to more tense in the area following the so called creative chaos in Iraq. As somewhat political compliments of the regimes have replaced encouraging democratic changes, we have undergone some sort of retreat unto the achievements of the early years of reform.

The development schemes backed by the US globalization have actually deepened dependence on the US economy for the benefit of the US. Individual Free Trade Agreement with Bahrain has resulted in increasing the US imports to the country, while our exports to the US have decreased. The Agreement focused on the financial sector and that of communications. However, construction and real estate sector has been activated too, which meant importing non-clever workers and doubling the number of population in Bahrain over the last 5 years. Despite the US economists' calls, sometimes, to liberate the Gulf currencies exchange rates, some political pressures have forced officials to forget about their statements and keep sticking to the US dollar. Our national currencies have almost lost half their values over the last decade. Moreover, worldwide waves of high prices coincided with deteriorated exchange rates and inflation.

It is true that our countries have attained high growth rates due to high fuel prices over the past years; yet growth was remarkably observed in productive sectors. Hence, the pace of development, together with over population and inflation, has eaten out all the fruits of economic growth.

Moreover, the US war against terrorism all over the world has been reflected, passively, on the area. Terrorist groups have emerged in some of the Gulf countries that have never seen the

phenomenon beforehand, even in Iraq itself.

Calefaction stances against Iran have actually aroused a feeling of non-confidence in the future. Hence, we and AAPSO Secretariat have chosen to hold a scientific conference in Bahrain to discuss turning the Gulf area into an area of peace and cooperation that would be void of nuclear weapons. Yet, unfortunately, this has not proved to be available up till the present time.

However, we know well that war and peace issues in the area are, and will always be, sources of worrisome for peace and solidarity groups in our countries as well as the whole world.

5th Session

Disarmament and Eliminating Nuclear Proliferation

Chairperson: Prof. Mohamed Arif

Ambassador. Mohamed Shaker*

I wish to thank you for inviting me to contribute to this important conference, which is dedicated to the memory of late Dr. Morad Ghaleb, the former president of AAPSO. He was a true friend, mentor and a leader whom we shall miss wherever we go. Today I will talk about disarmament and control of nuclear weapons proliferation which leads me to dwell upon the non-proliferation system and the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The sixth Article of the Treaty highlights the need for armament control, disarmament of nuclear weapons and the conclusion of a comprehensive treaty on the disarmament of weapons generally and comprehensively. This Article was part of a deal struck between nuclear countries and non-nuclear countries, and it was the outcome of lengthy negotiations held between both camps. But as long as nuclear countries are calling upon the world to stop manufacturing nuclear weapons, they should set an example themselves and start disarmament of their nuclear arsenals.

Unfortunately, the NPT Review Conference, held in 2005, failed because of laxity on part of nuclear countries and the unwillingness of some to admit that they stopped short of implementing Article (6). And though no final communiqué was offered, non-nuclear countries, representing Afro-Asian nations,

*** Vice President of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs.**

- Translated By: Mr. Hassan Thabet.

reminded the conference with the thirteen steps approved by the Treaty Review Conference held in 2000.

As you know the Treaty is revised every five years. In 2000, all countries party to the Treaty agreed to 13 steps to be taken towards the disarmament of nuclear weapons, including a step providing for the entry of the Nuclear-test-ban Treaty into effect.

Currently there is a debate on the conclusion of a Treaty on the Prohibition of Fission Material Production for Military Purposes and an effort to reactivate the long-dormant Geneva Conference on Disarmament, though it should have established a Commission on Disarmament. Since the ratification of NPT and its entry into force in 1970, nothing was achieved in field of disarmament, all talk but no deeds. Actually disarmament treaties are not for the purpose of control of strategic weapons; they only aim at reducing nuclear warheads, such as the Moscow Agreement concluded in 2002 which sets a deadline for both Russia and the US to reduce their warheads below 2200 warheads. Can you imagine! 2200 nuclear warheads can destroy the world, let alone the worn-out warheads that shall be scrapped, destroyed or disassembled. Even this was not provided for by the Russia-US Agreement. As you can see, the situation augers ill for the globe if a nuclear conflict is triggered. Therefore the issues of disarmament and control of nuclear weapons proliferation are closely connected, because control can never be attained unless disarmament is achieved. Here I seize the opportunity to pay tribute to AAPSO for the role it performed since its inception in combating nuclear armament and calling for disarmament, together with other prominent organizations such as the 1995 Nobel Prize winner Pugwash Organization for its role in fighting nuclear armament. I am here today, not only in my capacity as representative of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs and the Center of Foreign Policy Thought, but also as a representative of a nascent Egyptian Pugwash Organization incepted a year ago to join its sister in

Africa which is already headquartered in Cairo. I am here to represent the Pugwash Organization which undertakes a major role in the field of disarmament of traditional and nuclear weapons.

The 13 steps I already mentioned were approved by the NPT Review Conference, Non-Alignment Movement, formal and informal international blocs, such as Pugwash, AAPSO and the Middle Powers Initiative established by a Canadian Senator and from which the Article VI Forum was founded. International formal and informal efforts are exerted to activate nuclear weapons disarmament, and the third world, more importantly the Middle East, need to take interest in those 13 steps. In 1974, we embarked here in this region on an effort to void the region of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, biological and chemical. We called for declaring the region free of nuclear weapons, and Iran was a partner, in fact the call was voiced by Iran in the first place. Every year Egypt and other countries aspire for submitting this initiative to the United Nations. As countries of the third world we must shoulder our responsibility in order to save the region from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Years later, Egypt came up with another idea; to establish an area free from nuclear, biological and chemical mass destruction weapons. The League of Arab States undertook the formation of a committee in charge of preparing a draft treaty to declare the region free from weapons of mass destruction, and the committee worked for many years. In Riyadh Summit last year the efforts of the committee were suspended until the League evaluates the efforts exerted until now, as no real progress was made, because major nuclear powers promised in 1995 to do something but did not do anything. We hope that elimination of weapons of mass destruction should extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf region, inclusive of Iran, Arab countries and Israel. I hope this effort would last, and that the role of the League

of Arab States would continue to coordinate and co-operate to turn this effort into reality. The serious issue at stake here is that there is no real nuclear disarmament since the invention of the atomic bomb. The US Administration is not willing to hasten the issue, even though numerous non-governmental organizations world-wide are calling for real disarmament. If it was not for such organizations, governments would not budge. Such organizations are very much significant, and in my capacity as a former government official and a former Ambassador I must say that I have learnt a lot from listening to these organizations, we really learn from them and rely on their calls to do what is deemed necessary.

Thanks

Mr.Sukla Sen*

Indo-US Nuclear Deal: The Continuing Drift in India's Foreign Policy

"We have an ambitious agenda with India. Our agenda is practical. It builds on a relationship that has never been better. India is a global leader, as well as a good friend. ... My trip will remind everybody about the strengthening of an important strategic partnership. We'll work together in practical ways to promote a hopeful future for citizens in both our nations."

President George W. Bush, February 22, 2006

[Source:http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/03/20060302-13.htm1]

Foreign Policy

The 'foreign policy' of a country or state essentially encompasses, the formulation of doctrines - to define and shape the relationships of that particular country, under the incumbent regime, with the outside world in the global and regional contexts, and their actual working out.

The 'foreign policy' cannot but be strongly linked to the domestic policy. For one, it is essentially the same larger body of elite consisting of state managers and 'opinion leaders' etc. - notwithstanding their specific specialisations and niches,

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formulates the both. And it is the same range of interests, and ideology, that informs in both the domains.

Nevertheless, one is not the simple extension of the other.

The Indian Case

Independent India, its emergence rooted in the specificities of decades long huge anti-colonial mass struggles and the British colonial rule for about two centuries that it eventually overturned, charted out a specific and well thought out path for itself **(1)**. Its foreign policy, from the very beginning but more so since the US backing up Pakistan's claim on Kashmir and the emergence of the People's Republic of China at its very doorstep, took a broad anti-colonial and anti-imperialist orientation, notwithstanding its own supremacist designs vis-a-vis the extended neighbourhood. This, however, did not deter it from actively engaging with both the major contesting global camps of the day, while maintaining some, even if fluctuating and asymmetrical, distances from the both. India's role as an active proponent of the doctrine of Peaceful Coexistence, since 1955 Bandung Conference, and its emergence as a major driver of the Non-Aligned Movement, formally launched in Belgrade in 1961, are just two most tangible manifestations **(2)**.

However, the self-image and the perception of self-interest of the Indian elite, which itself underwent a very significant metamorphosis on account of the generational changes and, more importantly, the socio-economic developments initiated and engineered by the Indian State under its stewardship, evolved and changed over the decades **(3)**.

In the outside world, at the same time, the mighty wave of decolonisation, rather paradoxically, came to a virtual close with the final and humiliating defeat of the US imperialism in Vietnam by the mid-seventies. The Soviet Bloc collapsed, virtually overnight, between 89 and 91. Neo-liberalism gained respectability since early eighties and became the reigning

economic doctrine on the global scale some time thereafter. India adopted it with evident gusto particularly since 1991 (4).

Consequently the foreign policy, as a tool of promoting "national interest" as perceived and formulated by the ruling elite, also kept on taking a very different hue.

Of late these changes are getting much starker and alarming with the frank jettisoning of old practices and ethical posturing, courting of new friends, and shameless cosying up to the global hegemon in a determined bid, further spurred by the recent economic upswing, to emerge as a mini-hegemon (5).

The overt nuclearisation of South Asia in May 98 and India's role vis-a-vis the ongoing turmoil in West Asia are two very important markers in this unfolding process. So is the yet-to-be-wrapped-up Indo-US nuke deal (6). Apart from its grave fallout on the nuclear scenario, both globally and regionally, it'd also mark a new breaking ground in the context of the continually evolving Indo-US relationship (7). Some observers have even compared this development with Nixon's visit to Mao's China in the early seventies. And the intertwining of India's foreign policy and the nuclear policy had never been as salient, with so very menacing proportions. The foreign policy establishment, headed by the Prime Minister himself, has been desperately pressed into service to engineer safe delivery of the nuke deal, without as yet any spectacular success though.

Conversely, the anti-nuke peace activists in India are also grimly engaged with the issue in all its dimensions (8).

The Deal

The broad outlines of the deal were first laid out in the joint statement (9) issued by the Indian Prime Minister and the US President on July 182005 from Washington DC and then further reiterated on March 2,2006 in another joint statement (9A) by them issued from New Delhi incorporating the major elements of

agreements between the countries reached till then.

The deal, in its essence, is meant to enable India, a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) like (only) Pakistan and Israel, henceforth to have 'civilian' nuclear trade - in terms of nuclear fuel, technology, plants, spares etc., with the US, and also other nations so desirous, by making a unique exception in case of India. India in return will have to designate, at its own options, its nuclear reactors into two categories - 'civilian' (for power production) and 'strategic' (for Bomb making), and ensure separation between the two. The 'civilian' reactors/plants only will be opened up for international inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The nuclear trade will accordingly be limited to the 'civilian' reactors only. In case of the 'strategic' ones, there will be neither any inspection nor any trade.

The deal as and when, and if at all, comes through will grievously undermine the current global regime of nuclear nonproliferation, as it is meant to make a unique exception in case of India, in gross violation of the underlying principles of the NPT, and thereby also the prospects of global nuclear disarmament. The fact that Pakistan has been brusquely refused a similar deal by the US in spite of persistent clamouring and Iran is being demonstratively coerced to desist from developing its own nuclear fuel cycle technology, integral to nuclear power production allowed and encouraged under the Article IV of the NPT, further brings out graphically the abominable discriminatory nature of the deal. Moreover, the lesson that one would tend to learn is that if one can weather the initial storms of international censures after breaking the nonproliferation taboo, things would normalise in a while. One may even get rewarded in the process. This is sure to trigger off stepped up vertical and horizontal proliferations.

Moreover, by enabling India to import fuel, natural or enriched uranium, from abroad, the deal would make it possible for India to

use the indigenously produced uranium exclusively for Bombmaking. This possible escalation in its fissile material production capacity is, in all likelihood, push Pakistan further to nuclearise even at a great cost, and thereby aggravate tensions and accelerate arms race in the region with spinechilling consequences.

I'd also further cement the growing (unequal) strategic ties between the US and India and thereby would add momentum to the US project for unfettered global dominance and Indian craze to emerge as a global power basking in the reflected glory of the global headman. It would just not only undermine India's position as a founding and leading member of the NAM, it would also pose a very serious challenge to tie NAM and its objectives in terms of radically raised level of US domination on the global scene.

India's rather meek submission to highly deplorable and dangerous threats issued and postures adopted by the Bush regime in relation to Iran and its nuclear programme instead of trying to find a just and fair solution in terms of having a Weapons of Mass Destruction free Middle-East including Israel is a clear and extremely worrisome pointer **(10)**. The talks on India joining the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) initiated by the US to interdict any vessel in international waters suspected of carrying (unauthorised!) nuclear materials, in gross violation of all international laws **(10A)** and also the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme of the US **(10B)** are two other highly disturbing developments.

India's growing closeness with Israel, the frontline state of the US in the Middle East, would also pick up further pace in the process.

This deal would obviously distort India's energy options by diverting scarce resources to developments of resource-guzzling, intrinsically hazardous and potentially catastrophic, nuclear power at the cost of ecologically benign renewable sources of energy.

This would, furthermore, provide a strong boost to the nuclear industry worldwide, particularly the potential suppliers from the US. And that's precisely why the business lobby in the US is working overtime to get the 'Deal' clinched.

The last visit by the Russian President Vladimir Putin to India as the guest of honour at the Republic Day event, in 2007, and his public commitment to supply additional nuclear reactors to India and work for the safe passage of the deal through the NSG underscores the convergence of interests of the nuclear power lobbies worldwide as regards the 'Deal' and the new market that it is promising to open up **(10C)**.

Putin and Sarkozy's India Visit and Manmohan's China Visit: Implications

The last visit of Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, as the guest of honour on the occasion of India's Republic Day (2007), has shown up in graphic details the divergence and also convergence between the Russian and US interests, particularly on the issue of the ongoing Indo-US nuke deal.

That Russia has, on this occasion, signed an MoU with India as regards intended supply of four additional nuclear reactors in future for the Koodankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu has been rather convincingly interpreted as an attempt on its part to preempt American moves to sell their wares and comer the Indian market, as and when and if at all the deal eventually comes through. The fact that Russia (Atomstroiexport), and Frnance (Areva), had been pipped to the post by the US-based corporate Westinghouse, now a subsidiary of Japanese Toshiba, in the race to secure a giant deal to supply four nuclear reactors to friendly China with an estimated price tag of $5 to $8 billion must have had made Putin all the more desperate.

Rather paradoxically, but quite self-evidently, this desperation has also impelled Putin to demonstratively commit himself to

garnering support for the American initiative to change the ground rules of the 45-member NSG to accommodate the Indo-US Deal in the making **(11)**.

Similarly, this year, the French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced at the end of the visit, on the occasion of the Republic Day, that the two countries had completed negotiations on a bilateral agreement covering a range of activities from research through "full civil nuclear cooperation including reactors, fuel supply and management." The agreement was initialed by French and Indian officials during the visit **(11A)**.

The joint declaration issued on Jan. 14,2008 by India and China, titled "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century", on the occasion of the Indian Prime Minister's visit to China, in a somewhat similar, even if in a significantly less emphatic, manner but with an element of much higher level of surprise, iterates the commitment of both the countries to bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy. It solemnly avers that "the two sides pledge to promote bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy, consistent with their respective international commitments, which will contribute to energy security and to dealing with risks associated with climate change" **(12)**. And the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) Chairman Sun Qin would likely visit India this year to discuss the process for bilateral nuclear cooperation.

Those who were/are trying to block or opposing the deal principally in terms of loss of India's national sovereignty cannot but be highly discomfited by the outcomes of these visits. That the Indo-Pak-Iranian gas deal has been kept alive, even if just that, despite strong American disapproval and India continuing with joint military exercises with Russia and also China will further underscore the essential untenability of such opposition. That the Indian Prime Minister attended the SAARC meet at Havana in September 2006 in preference over the UNGA meet in New York

where the then Defence Minister, the second seniormost member of the Indian Cabinet, had been deployed while crucial debates in the US Congress had been under way as regards the deal with Indian Foreign Secretary being stationed in Washington DC to see the deal through brings out the highly complex nature of the game that the Indian ruling elite is engaged with in the global arena. It also underscores the failure, or refusal, on the part of a significant section of the opponents that the deal is a manifestation more of misuse of national sovereignty than outright loss of it.

Conclusion

The deal as and when, and if at all, comes through will grievously undermine the current global regime of nuclear non-proliferation and thereby also the prospects of global nuclear disarmament. It is also likely to further aggravate tensions and accelerate arms race in the region.

It'd also further cement the growing strategic ties between the US and India and thereby would add momentum to the US project for unfettered global dominance. India is unlikely though to close doors on all others countries considered inimical by the US.

It'd also act as a booster for nuclear energy industry - which is as of now uneconomic, intrinsically hazardous, potentially catastrophic, dishes out false promise of being environmentally benign given its rather limited impact on reduction of emission of CO2 and that too on a progressively reducing scale as the quality of the natural fuels keeps on deteriorating and also the fact that there is no failsafe method of disposal of continually piled up huge stocks of radioactive wastes and outlived plants and acts as a driver for developing nuclear warheads; and a considerable dampener for efforts to develop ecologically benign renewable sources of energy - nationally and also globally.

In essence, the deal is both an outcome and manifestation of the accelerated shift in India's foreign policy - propelled by

the transmutation of Indian elite over the decades since Independence caused by the socio-economic developments within the country and also shift in global power balance - particularly since the early nineties, frankly embracing and glorifying realpolitik and dumping any pretension to an equitable global order.

Whether the deal eventually goes through or not, unless interrupted by popular resistance, the shift is likely to continue. However, the scuttling of the deal or even a change of regime in the US would most likely affect its pace, at least on the short term. While moving closer to the US, the Indian elite are unlikely to surrender all the alternate options in tune with their burning ambitions to occupy a seat at the high table in the global asymmetric order.

Notes and references:

1. See From Colonial to Independent Economy in Essays on Colonialism by Bipan Chandra; p. 315 - 328 in particular (Orient Longman, 1999). As regards the foreign policy of independent India, Chandra succinctly posits his position thus: "India's foreign policy has played a major role in cementing the diverse social forces around the dominant leadership. Foreign policy and its cementing role have been consciously used to follow the path of independent capitalist development, to counter overt or covert imperialist blackmail, and to weaken the e'lan of the left-wing opposition."

Also, Prelude to Power: The Meaning of Non-Alignment Before Indian Independence by T. A. Keenleyside in Pacific Affairs, Vol. 53, No.3 (Autumn, 1980).

2. India in a Changing World by Achin Vanaik; p. 19 - 28 (Tracts for the Times, Orient Longman, 1995). Also Indian Foreign Policy: The Age of Nehru by Paul F. Power in The Review of Politics, Vol. 26, No.2. (Apr., 1964).

India becoming a member of the Commonwealth, under the British Crown, on the very morrow of Independence had come as a shocker to many. But after the takeover of power in neighbouring China by the Communist Party after a protracted civil war, India became one of the first countries to recognise the new regime. India also persistently supported the claim of the People's Republic of China for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. It also criticised the US armed intervention in Korea under the UN flag. All these, understandably, contributed to the reversal of the role of the Communist Party of India towards the Indian National Congress, Jawaharlal Nehru in particular, and the government led by him. Disgracing of B T Ranadive and scrapping of his militant policies as the leader of the Party was the immediate outcome of this process of shift in India's foreign policy. See The Swing Back: A critical survey of the devious zigzags of CPI political line (1947 - 50) by Tridib Chaudhuri in Documents of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, Vol. II, Lokayata Chtana Bikash Society, Agartla (2003). Also available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/chaudhuri/1950/swing-back/index.htm>.

In spite of the West remaining its by far the major trading partner, India tried to skilfully balance it by developing relationship with the USSR in many critical areas supply of armaments in particular.

3. Indian Nationalism, Hindutva and the Bomb by Sukla Sen (mimeoed working paper, available at <http://india.indymedia.org/en/2003/09/7976.shtml>.)

4. The New Indian Right by Achin Vanaik (<http://www.sacw.net/2002/achin NewIndianRighthtml>)

5. For an elaboration of this new drive, see: India's Foreign Policy Grows Up

by Sumit Ganguly (http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/articles/wpi03-4/ganguly.html).
Also see for a far more unabashed and hawkish, but essentially similar, elaboration of this position: Aim low, hit lower by Bharat Kamad (http://www.india-seminar.com/2005/545/545%20bharat%20karmad3.htm).
Also, Prelude to Power: The Meaning of Non-Alignment Before Indian Independence by T. A. Keenleyside in Pacific Affairs, Vol. 53, No.3 (Autumn, 1980) for a discussion on a loss of values in foreign policy.
6. See India's Foreign Policy: Shifts and the Calculus of Power by Kamal Mitra Chenoy and Anuradha M. Chenoy (http://www.epw.org.in/uploads/articles/l0980.pdf).
7. The US.-India "Global Partnership": How Significant for American Interests? By Ashley J. Tellis (http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index. cfm? fa=view &id= 17693 & prog=zgp&proj=znpp,zsa,zusr). And also see India as a New Global Power: An Action Agenda for the United States by Ashley J. Tellis (<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/CEIP_India_strategy_2006. FINAL. pdf >).
Faulty Promises: The US.-India Nuclear Deal by George Perkovich (<http://www.camegieendowment.org/files/PO21.Perkovich.pdf>) for a different perspective.

Also for an official Indian view INDIA-US RELATIONS (<http://72.14.235.104/search?q=cache: FY4VE-LOzJkJ:meaindia.nic.in/foreignrelation/usa.pdf>).
8. Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP), India Condemns 123 Agreement and Abolition 2000 (Press Release 14 August 2007) in Peace Now (August 2007).
9. See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/07/20050718-6.html>
9A. See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/20060302-5.html>.
10. See NON-ALIGNED REALIGNING TO CONFRONT IRAN (<http://wmdinsights.org/OldGlobal/March06/13_G2_Global_Iran.htm>)
However, the charge that India alone has broken the non-aligned ranks is just not factually correct. See the table in the link provided here.
10A. See <http://www.strategicforesight.com/sfgnews_150.htm>.
10B. See http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/india_u_s_military_potential ballistic_missile defense_cooperation.
10C. For a comprehensive analysis of the deal, see <http://pagesperso-orange.fr/sacw/saan/2007/Res032007.html>. And for the

current uncertainties, <http://timesnow.tv/NewsDtls. aspx?NewsID=6027> and <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/PoliticsNation/Time_running_out_for_N_deal/articleshow/2799657.cms>.

11. For recent developments in this regard, see Russia to build additional nuclear reactors in Kudankulam (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Russia_to _build_additional_nuclear _Keactors - in Kudankulam/rssarticleshow/2776917.cms>. Also, for a historical background, <http://www.nti.org/db/nisprofs/russia/exports/rusind/react.htm>.

11A. See France, India agree on cooperation, but barriers to nuclear trade remain by Ann MacLachlan (Paris) and Mark Hibbs (Bonn) in Nucleonics Week (31-Jan-08).
Also see <http://www.france24.com/france24Public/en/archives/news/world/20080125france-india-nuclear-agreement-sarkozy. php>.

12. See India, China to promote cooperation in civil nuclear energy by Pallavi Aiyar (<http://ww\v.hindu.com/2008/01/15/stories/2008011555490100.htm>).

Amb. El Sayed Ragaby*

Some Features of the Iranian Nuclear File**

Ladies and Gentlemen
Distinguished attendants
Dear Friends in the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)

At the outset, I'd like to express my greetings and hopes to the (AAPSO) on its 50th Anniversary and I do express the sincerest expressions of friendship and appreciation to such deep-rooted reverent organization. As a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I can't help but remember and remind you of the late hero and national struggler Dr. Morad Ghaleb.

In the first place, I'd like to illustrate some scientific facts to which the world tends. A new phenomenon has emerged in the world concerning using nuclear energy in many peaceful fields atop of which is generating electricity and other types of energy, in order to encounter the challenges facing the world due to the use of fossil fuel. Today it has become clear that the use of electricity in various fields within many countries is much more cleaner and cost-effective than other technologies.

Hence, one can clearly notice the economic privilege of atomic-power generation that emerged after the rapid increase of fossil fuel prices, especially after the growing expectations of

*** Ambassador of the Iranian Interests Bureau in Egypt. The speech is delivered by Mr. Qasem Zakary, Secondary Secretary.**
**** Translated by: Mr. Hassan Thabet.**

experts with regard to the continuity of oil prices for years yet to come.

The energy produced from nuclear fuel has nothing to do with Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and doesn't raise earth temperature. Thus the collateral costs of fossil fuel that are used for GHGs control can be canceled. Likewise, the impacts of using Hydrological energy, the effects of building dams on the ecology of rivers and the unknown costs resulting from other negative aspects are not aspects of the use of nuclear energy.

The researches conducted by the World Society for Nuclear Energy have found that nuclear-power production is the most cost effective production method in many countries of the world, it can be more reliable than any other source of energy. It doesn't need to change the shape and context of the place in which it is conducted; it can be established wherever energy is needed. Thus the use of water can be better used for agriculture and dams can be optimally utilized in entertainment sports.

It is worth mentioning that while oil prices rise in the world markets, industrial countries and main energy consumers in the world have simultaneously started exerting their efforts to utilize nuclear energy. New generations of nuclear reactors are being established within industrial and research centers in such countries.

It is expected that a large portion of Europe, America, China, Japan,....etc, since 2006, will considerably increase the percentage of nuclear energy inconsumer energy sector. For instance, France is provided with a three-quarters of its energy from nuclear reactors. Likewise, America has 104 reactor and it has the largest number of power-generating reactors in the world. Bush has recently confirmed building new nuclear reactors in the United States for the purpose of reducing dependence on oil. His point of view that nuclear reactors can generate electricity in a low cost manner with no air pollution or GHGs emissions.

The spread of the idea of using nuclear energy in the world has increased to an extent that prompted some oil countries to take some steps in this domain

The level of utilizing Atom Energy for Global Power Production:

Based on the information currently available, there are 430 atomic reactors in 34 country in the world, providing 75% of electricity in some countries. The United States of America has stated that it has 104 atomic reactors that are the most power-productive reactors in the world. Atomic energy is the cleanest, most effective and most distinctive source of energy, after hydrological energy.

The for the Islamic Republic of Iran, power consumption witnesses an annual increase of 6% to 8%. Such increase have started since 1979 and it reached 280 percent so far, which compels Iran to provide electricity through fossil fuel. As a result of the economic limitedness and blockade imposed by the United States of America on our country, Iran will become an oil-importing by 2010 due to the fact that 57 out of 60 oil wells will need re-construction and pressure strengthening during 10 years with an estimated cost of $ 40 billion, which is not applicable (practical). Based on this fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran has resorted to using nuclear energy for power generation, specially after the U.S besiege. On the other hand, 20 to 30 is the period needed for the optimal use of gas sources for the purpose of exporting gas to beneficiaries in Asia or Europe. Thus uncontrolled consumption of gas in energy production shall be eliminated.

From a historical point of view, the Iranian Program has started since the age of the Shah with the assistance and support of the United States and European countries in the early seventies. At that time, the most important objectives of the Iranian Nuclear

Program were creating a variety of energy sources in Iran and producing 20000 mega watt of electricity. Since the early eighties till 1994 when the Iran heads for completing its nuclear programs, Americans and Europeans had several opportunities to participate in such program for completing and developing Iran nuclear reactors, yet they always turned their back to such participations.

The American and European non-commitment to their obligations towards Iran, including the establishment of two reactors of 900 mega watt capacity in the area of Dar Khuan, delivering 50 tons of UP6 gas to Iran from Its shares in the French factory "Eurodif" , England's confiscation of 577 tons of Uranium bought by Iran from South Africa and the German abstention from delivering the nuclear equipment to Iran. All these are proofs of the World Major powers' disinterestedness in the international standards and a hideous violation of NPT Resolutions. So far, Germany abstains from licensing the exportation of all the said equipments to the nuclear centre located in Bushehr. These equipment are kept in Germany for more than 25 years waiting for being delivered to Iran since its price has been paid completely on an earlier period .

After Germany's abstention from issuing the said license, Iran has concluded a contract with Russia for completing the first unit of the centre. Germany's non-commitment to its legal obligation has caused Iran to incur billions of dollars until date and, although two decades have passed, this unit hasn't been operated yet.

Likewise, the illegal action undertaken by France needs follow-up because it has prevented the Iran's Uranium Enrichment in Tricastin Factory for Enrichment affiliate to "Eurodif" Company despite Iran was possessing 10% of this company's shares at that time. Britain's confiscation of the Uranium shipment returning to Iran as a part of Iran's shares in South Africa mines is a flagrant model of marine piracy. Such shipment has been stopped while passing from the British territory under instructions

from concerned bodies there.

Since 1979, the Iran population has increased more than double; the 32 million Iranians have been doubled to reach roughly 70 million person. It is expected that the Iranian population would rise to 105 million by 2050. Iran's current power production is about 30000 mega watt while it needs 2000 mega watts more. Such additional amount needed can't be produced even if all kinds of American blockade on Iran are lifted, and even if foreign capitals are delivered to Iran such electricity can not be produced through the use of oil and gas only.

- The level of annual domestic consumption has increased during the last years. Iran currently imports annually a 4 billion dollars equivalent of gasoline from neighboring countries because domestic production doesn't cover the growing needs of domestic consumption. If things go as they are, by 2010 Iran will import oil only, which is a tragic phenomenon to any heavy-populated country.

Oil and gas are nonrenewable wealth and we cannot indifferently waste such wealth. It is worth mentioning that Iran is rich with a proper quantity of Uranium that can be used in power production. Such Uranium sources can produce what equals 45 billion barrel of oil.

Since 1980, the emissions of GHGs by Iran has increased, which largely affects air pollution in the country. In Tehran about 17 thousand person died due to diseases resulting from air pollution. The IAEA report for 2005 emphasized that GHGs production can be controlled by means of increasing the share of nuclear energy used for power production.

Based on what has been stated in the report, out of 31 global reactors, 22 reactors were found in developing Asian countries. Similarly, out of 27 under construction atomic reactors, 18 are fond in the same developing Asian countries. The reason behind establishing such reactors lies in the pressures imposed by

economic development, the lack of natural energy sources and the increase of populations. As a developing country, Iran encounters all these pressures and faces such facts.

The Western Media Propaganda about the Iranian Nuclear Facilities:

On the 14th of August 2002 European countries has launched a truculent media campaign in which they alleged that Iran has secretly initiated establishing Uranium enrichment facilities in Natanz and heavy water production facilities in Arak. The goal of such propaganda and new plans contrived by such major powers in the Middle East was to impose pressure on the countries of the region, to take advantage of the airs prevailing after the September 11 events and to exert efforts to legalize the unilateral procedures taken by the United States against other countries. In the mean the mean time, Iran has , since 2000, informed the IAEA formally of its intention of establishing a factory for Uranium substitution in Esfahan to provide a proper ground for a project for nuclear fuel production. Mr. El Barad'ey has visited the preparatory phases for building Esfahan Factory in 2000 .

For this reason, when the media propaganda concerning the so-called detection of the new Iranian sites took place, Barad'ey's responded to reporters saying: " This issue isn't not a surprise to us because we have earlier been in touch with the Iranians. "

Although Iran was committed to its obligation, under peace and safety decisions, to inform the IAEA 18 days prior to operating these facilities and has announced the information of these sites long before the timetable defined, the western countries continued launching their tendentious propaganda. Anyway, within the frame of the transparent policy adopted by the country, Mr. El Barad'ey has revisited the said sites on 21/3/2002

In spite of the siege imposed on us, our progress in this domain has amazed Mr. El Barad'ey. The March 2002 report presented by

Barad'ey to the Board of Governors regarding his visit to Iran has indicated to different countries that our country reaches a good level in the field of utilizing nuclear technology and that we persist on following this path within the frame of the IAEA Resolutions and irrespective of the contrived propaganda.

Since then Western countries have resolved to deny Iran its legal right of using nuclear technology and of having a fuel cycle by placing our nuclear program on the Agenda of the Board of Governors, Therefore, our country's nuclear activities has been put on the executive agenda of the Board of Governors since June 2002 until date

Since the very beginning, western countries, specially the United States, have endeavored to create an international consensus to refer the issue of our country's nuclear activities to the UN Security Council in order to impose pressures on the members of the Security Council to frustrate all the results found by Iranian scientists in this domain and to deprive them from their ensured right.

Iran has, through taking an informed decision, solely conducted its operations by its own. Some of the actions that increases Iran's self-confidence lie in the talks it hold with three European countries. Since the very beginning and throughout the difficult phases it passed through, such talks aimed at demonstrating Iran's right of possessing nuclear technology, including Uranium enrichment on the one hand and to establish western country's confidence that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful

The most important objective of talks with Europe was Tehran's Declaration and Paris Convention. Both instruments have emphasized our country's right in utilizing nuclear technology. Paris Convention and the Resolution of the Board of Governors has expressively declared that the voluntary procedures undertaken by the Islamic Republic of Iran is to gain trust, yet Iran has no legal commitments in this regard. However, Europe has

proved that it doesn't look at such talks in good faith although many unsettled issues have been resolved with the passage of time. Therefore, when Europe was to submit its project in June 2005 within the frame of their long term bilateral agreement, Europe presented a project that deprives Iran of its legal right in this domain. Such action undertaken by Europe was considered the last pin in the coffin of the agreement. Therefore, Iran has suspended some of the voluntary actions that were made under Paris Convention, including Operating the UCF site.

Upon the operation of such site, the Europeans kept on creating a propaganda against Iran and, consequently, an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Governors was summoned.

In August 2005, the Council issued an illegal resolution aiming at imposing pressures on our country to deprive it of its peaceful program. Our country's firmness in face of such pressures has resulted in the issuance of another illegal resolution in September 2005 by some members of the Board of Governors.

Paying no attention to such false atmospheres, our country proceeds in its peaceful programs depending on national capabilities, in compliance with the two relevant Articles, i.e. complete cooperation with the IAEA and continuing talks with all countries for the purpose of Gaining trust. For this purpose, the 12th October Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was issued and a message was sent by Dr. Larijani to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of three European countries on November 6, 2005 expressing Iran's readiness to proceed in conducting talks with all countries, including such three European countries based on the principle of Equality, nondiscrimination and respect of the rights all countries. In this context, Iran has continued its talks about any development with all countries, including Non-Alignment Organization State members, Russia and China. Similarly, several meetings have been held between concerned bodies in our country and the concerned bodies of these countries. Such

activities include the visit to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Malaysia and South Africa as the Non-Alignment troika to Tehran in the 2006 Autumn.

The joint statement of Non-alignment Troika ministers in this regard has a special importance because it has formally acknowledged our country's right to make use of nuclear technology. Our country's policy on nuclear fuel cycle shall be respected. This statement has also emphasized that all issues related to Iran's nuclear file shall be settled under the umbrella of the IEAE. Moreover, the initiative of the Iranian president was appreciated.

With a special attention to the last message delivered by Mr. Larijani to the ministers of foreign affairs of three European countries, the European side was earnestly called upon to respond positively to this message in order to pave the road to initiate talks. However, in spite of the positive actions undertaken by our country on the proper path leading to settle the existing misconception in an honest manner, the Israeli lobby and the West has prepared for the issuing a Board of Governors resolution and a report on Iran's file to be presented to the Security Council.

We cannot overlook the fact that the existence of Zionist bulls within the context of decision making in Pentagon has baffled the American government and directed the American actions to serve the foreign policy objectives of such Jerusalem usurper entity. As s result of this policy, America has been tumbled in the war on Iraq and Bush's extreme situations against Iran and Iran's peaceful nuclear file.

As a matter of fact, the continuous efforts exerted by the West and the United States against our country's peaceful nuclear program don't stem from the fear of the nuclear weapons that may be possessed by Iran; but it aims mainly to prevent Iran from being a nuclear fuel producing country. Through the expansion policies of the Zionist lobby, they aim at being the only entity that

possess nuclear power in the whole world. In the future, when oil and gas are totally exhausted and out of the frame of energy production, the whole world, specially Islamic countries will be in need for the energy sources existing in some nuclear countries in the world.

Iran is a member of the N.P.T Non-Proliferation Treaty. Article (4) of this treaty emphasizes the confirmed non-derogable right of the treaty members to take advantage of nuclear technology, including Uranium enrichment as long as its for peaceful purposes. Iran knows the reason behind the concerns about its nuclear program and it follows up what is up in this issue. So far, Iran has seriously exerted its outmost efforts for illustrating the different aspects of its nuclear program to the IAEA and to show the agency how the program goes in line with the applied security system. For this purpose Iran has undertaken the following actions:

1- Signing A protocol attached to the N.PT. in December 2003. Iran has fully implemented the Protocol even before being approved by the Iranian's Legislative Authority.

2- Throughout thousands of hours, the IAEA inspectors has visited and inspected all Iranian facilities.

3- Iran has voluntarily suspended the production and examination of Uranium Substitution, spare parts production and Center Feuoz since November 2004.

4- The Iranian President Ahmady Negad has invited countries and foreign companies to participate in the activities of the Iranian's Nuclear facilities in the shape of joint projects.

5- Iran has signed an agreement with Russia. Such agreement provides for sending the fuel consumed in Bushehr back to Russia. As a result of this cooperation, the IAEA has issued a report stating that all the substances mentioned in the report have been calculated and are not used in any unpermitted activity.

In addition to being one of the biggest countries in the region

with regard to the number of population. It largely needs development and reconstruction. It also has a youthful society. Therefore, Iran shall allocate a large portion of its limited revenues for such things, which makes the untraditional costly armament context will be against the security interests of the country. Similarly, the method and strategy of the Iranian army was not organized for using such nuclear equipment and weapons. Moreover, Iran itself is one of those who has proposed within the UN meetings that the Middle East shall be devoid of any nuclear weapons to keep the away from any kind of atomic threat, including the Israeli Nuclear arsenal.

- The official authorities has repeatedly ensured others that the ultimate goal of the Iranian program is energy production. Iran has committed itself to make this program under the international security system

The Iranian Obligation under the N.P.T is not limited to its jural commitments; it stems from its religious beliefs and moral principle. On several occasions, his Eminence Leader/ Khamenei has emphasized the religious rulings with regard to forbidding the production, storage and use of nuclear weapons. Iran has been a victim of mass destruction weapons, so the Iranian peoples persist on maintaining its peculiar situation, i.e. non-production of nuclear weapons

- We believe that such unusual emphasis on the Iranian nuclear program is incorrect and unfair. Such concern doesn't go in line with the nature and objectives of the program, a double-standard approach is there. The international community knows well that Iran never fail to abide by any international law and that the Iranian nuclear program doesn't require referral to the Security Council. It is unacceptable to judge countries on assumptions and imaginary intentions. Iran has started its nuclear researches with a prior knowledge of the IAEA. And all facilities work under the IAEA supervision throughout twenty four hours a day. We

keep on our cooperation with the Agency. It is noteworthy that nuclear researches are different from Uranium enrichment. This clarifies that Iran proceeds on its efforts for removing all concerns regarding the nature of its nuclear program which is compatible with the existing international security system. Iran resolves to keep on constructive honest talks with Europe, Russia and Non-alignment countries.

- From our own point of view, the best track to follow is that of dialogue and talks rather that threats and confrontation.

- Currently, i.e. after the publication of the last N.I.E. report on the military nature of the Iranian nuclear programs and the subsequent last report of the IAEA Director General and after considering both reports' agreement on that fact that the Iranian nuclear program is not derailed from its peaceful track; Iranians believe that the issue of the Iranian nuclear program has come to an end. As for the United States, it shall apologize to the Iranian people for its false allegations concerning accusing the Iranian peaceful nuclear program of being military.

- The Iranian people will not kill its peaceful nuclear dream. Therefore America shall differentiate between its national interests in the Middle East Area and the illegal greeds of the Zionist entity.

- In conclusion, I'd like, as a representative of my country, to emphasize that there will be no good result of issuing a new UN Resolution against Iran because it is illegal and implies no proper competence.

Finally, I 'd like to express thanks and appreciation to the AAPSO and to all dear attendants.

Country	Under-construction Reactor	Reactor connected to the network	Suspended Reactor	The level of Power Production in Mega Watts
Armenia	0	1	1	36/36
Argentina	1	2	0	04/9
Belgium	0	7	1	74/75
Bulgaria	0	6	0	12/47
Brazil	1	1	0	12/1
Canada	0	20	5	44/12
Switzerland's	3	5	1	03/36
China	9	3	0	15/1
Czech	3	4	0	77/20
Russia	7	30	4	41/14
Sweden	0	11	2	8/46
Slovenia	0	1	0	18/37
Slovakia	2	6	0	02/47
Taiwan	1	6	0	32/25
Ukraine	4	13	0	77/43
America	0	104	24	8/19
South Africa	0	2	0	08/7
Germany	0	19	17	21/31
Spain	0	9	1	99/30
Finland	0	4	0	05/33
France	1	58	12	75
Britain	0	34	11	87/38
Hungary	0	4	0	3/38
Ireland	2			
North Korea	2			
India	8	14	0	65/2
Iran	2	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	3	0
Japan	3	35	2	36
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	0
The Republic of Korea	1	15	0	42

Lithuania Mexico Netherlands Pakistan Romania	0 0 0 0 1	2 2 1 2 1	0 0 1 0 0	11/73 12/5 02/4 3/1 69/10
Gross total	39	430	86	
Ratio	28			1642

Mr. Yadave Reddy

Thank you very much Mr. chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak in this session. While chairing the 2nd session of the conference, I was provoked to make my comments in response to a paper circulated by the organisers about "the Indo-US deal on Nuclear Agreement". But restrained myself, keeping the best traditions of the International conference in view and made a request with the organisers to provide a slot to me to make the view point of my party very clear to the delegates coming from various countries. Therefore I thank the organisers and chair for giving me a chance to circulate my party position clear on the proposed Nuclear agreement between India and USA.

Mr. chairman and friends:

* Let me make it very clear that I am not trying to make a controversy over the issue, in fact I am trying to clear the confusion generated on account of a paper circulated here. Being a party functionary, I feel it is my bouden duty to express my party's view point on nuclear issues. Nothing more or nothing less.

* Friends, India in general and the congress party in particular is committed for the cause of peace, disarmament and coexistence. Our commitment is second to none. Our successive

Prime Ministers Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi had demonstrated the country commitment.

I would like to make it very clear to my friends at home and the international community here that the congress party as much committed as any others, in fact much more to fight against the presence of Nuclear weapons.

* Friends, we have gathered here to discuss the issues concerning mankind but not discuss the foreign policy of any particular country. I hope all of us are in agreement with my observation, surprisingly the paper mentioned about Indias foreign policy. Therefore I felt very strongly to speak about it.

* The second point, the paper mentioned was about the Indo-Us Nuclear deal. I appreciate the authors sentiment and every individual has a right to differ, oppose and fight against any discussion, policy or programme. I would like to bring to the notice of the international community about the fight undertaken by the supporting parties of the government, particularly the communists and other left parties the agreement installed and it is not signed even the author of the paper was not convinced about success of the deal.

* In our perspective, a country of one billion plus population should not ignore the growing demand of the energy no responsible government should sleep over the matter. Keeping this in view our government considered very seriously to go for a nuclear power.

* We are also supporting the cause of Iran for the same purpose.

* We are also vigilant about the implications an account of this deal. We will not accept any dictates or any power on the earth in achieving our goal.

* Some friends particularly writers are critical of the agreements between Indian government and other countries. I don't know, what are they up to. Whether they want India to be

isolated itself from the International community.

* I appeal to all these friends who are engaged in this campaign from this international forum to join those friends who are already fighting against it instead placing their views known through articles and books.

* Finally, I appeal to all those friends to knock at the right door.

Thank you very much

Contribution onto Axis V

Mrs. Emly Nafaa*

We have been listening to very important papers. I hope the core of discussion be paid a paramount attention.

The issues of banning weapons and their production are main issues before our Organization. We do not want a new Heroshima. Besides, we would like the funds provided for armament be turned over to development and progress in our countries.

I would like to add some information such as the Stockholm Institute report on International Peace Research. It has indicated that world military expenditure in 2005 totaled about $1.18 billion, which meant 2.5% of the world GNP. The US acts as the biggest in the fields of military expenditure with almost 48% of military expenditures worldwide. Moreover, Britain, France, and China are expected to increase their military expenditures. The Middle East area has been the biggest in military expenditure in 2005. Weapons sales for the biggest 100 companies worldwide, save China, totaled $ 268 billion in 2004, which meant 15% more than 2003. 41 US companies could have 64% of sales of the biggest 100 companies all over the world. Meanwhile, 41 European companies (including 4 Russian companies) had 31% of weapons

** Tranlated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.

sales worldwide. The biggest 5 companies share went up from 22% to 44% throughout 1999 – 2003.

Now, the whole Middle East is mobilized against Iran with the pretext of military weapons and other fallacies in order to sell more weapons, especially to Gulf countries. Plans are being woven to sell $20 billion weapons to Saudia Arabia, and $12 billion to Kuwait, ...etc.

So, they can make benefit from our mobilization against Iran. Hence, they tend to turn more and more money toward armament. Meanwhile, we are in dire need to find solutions to the problems of poverty and unemployment. We must call upon the Arab countries, hopefully with a resolution, to get back the immigrant funds in foreign banks. According to Ahmed Guweili, $140-200 (billion) have been drained to foreign banks. Why such funds are not used to finance development and solve the problems of unemployment and poverty.

It is high time to have somewhat pressures onto rulers to turn those funds to be utilized in tackling difficult hurdles facing the area...

Thank you

6th Session

The Empowerment of Women and Human Rights

Chairperson: Mr. Lotf Althour
Vice President of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity

Mr. Ali Lotf Al Thour

Chairman of the Session

In this sixth session we are touching upon a serious issue that concerns women empowerment and human rights. We have four speakers; Mrs. Emily Naffa', Mr. Mosa El Ma'ytah, Ms Skevi Kaukouma, Ms. SH Tsevelmaa, the ex first Lady of Mongolia.

- Translated By: Mr. Hassen Thabet.

Ms. Amali Nefa'*

Content

*** Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee.**
- Translated BY: Dr. Iman Shakeeb.

Women Empowerment and Human Rights

Introduction:

The last decades of the 20th century witnessed increasing recognition of the important role assumed by women in society. This is accredited to many reasons: the volume of economic, social and cultural development achieved by mankind and the struggle of women along with progressive forces against exploitation, social and class oppression and racism, in search of freedom, democracy and social progress. Same is also attributed to wide consciousness of the polemical relation between the advancement of women and the progress of the society. Following the failure of the Second UN Development Decade, due to meager participation of women in development, the United Nations adopted a decision to dedicate a year for women in 1975, then decade of women from 1976 – 1985 under the slogan of equality, development and peace, during which three international conferences were held. International conferences on women galvanized the interest of world public opinion in the status of women, shed light on the problems they face and contributed to educating women on their rights. Some progress was achieved as regards recognition of women. But the ever changing world of today faces serious problems, which resulted in worsening the work and life conditions of women in many countries, where fundamental rights of women have been violated, in particular, their right to live in peace and their right to education, training, work and health care. Millions of women are subjected to death due to hunger, poverty and illness. The more the world economic crisis increases, the more women suffer: poverty and unemployment. The Third World Conference on Women held in Nairobi, 1985, adopted a looking-forward strategy for the advancement of women, 2000. This document has become the reference of governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 1979, an important convention

was adopted: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, 1995, to review the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, is considered a turning point as regards address of women issues. The Beijing Platform for Action also served as a major stride with respect to working for the advancement of women. It represents the achievement of national, regional and international efforts to address the obstacles against actual gender equality, full entitlement to rights, increased participation in development and contribution to the progress of society. The Beijing Platform provided recommendations covering 12 major pivots: poverty, violence against women; effect of armed conflicts on women, education; health and women empowerment.

The documents, produced at international conferences held in the last decades: the conferences in Mexico, Copenhagen, Nairobi, Vienna, Cairo, and Beijing, stress that the conditions of women in the whole world is closely associated with the dominant economic and social conditions. These also indicate that it is difficult to talk of the destiny of mankind and progress without delving into the conditions of women and addressing the problems they face, in addition to their actual participation in society.

It is established that the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo) set the foundations for boosting the participation of women in development through: education, provision of job opportunities, legislative amendments and empowerment. An educated, healthy woman is more capable of participating in development and taking wise decisions as regards marriage and reproduction. The Beijing conference also stressed the division of responsibility between men and women in matters relevant to reproduction and reproductive health. The Beijing Platform bolstered the central issues stressed at the Cairo

conference as regards elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and elimination of all obstacles against the empowerment of women.

To enhance credibility and put the commitments of governments into practice, all UN conferences on development encouraged the establishment of mechanisms for follow up, accounting and monitoring of programs and projects with effective participation of the NGOs. The aim is to set these, manage and enhance coordinating mechanisms for implementation. This was conducted on the regional level in order to exchange experiences and benefit from skills and technical experiences as regards implementation and follow up, with a view to guaranteeing success of programs and projects with the participation of NGOs, as an integral part of national and regional efforts in the fields of training and researching in issues of women, population and development.

Empowerment of Women:

Since the early 90s, UN conferences have been working on enhancing the status of women and future in order to guarantee success of comprehensive development programs. These conferences have set the foundations to empower women, enhance participation in development; bridge the gender gap, protect the family; effect a balance between population resources; sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

The fourth chapter of the Cairo ICPD Program of Action stressed the necessary "achievement of gender equality". Enhancing women politically, socially and economically and enhancing their health are major and essential issues to slow down population growth and achieve sustainable development. The Vienna Program of Action on Human Rights called upon all communities to: "put an end to the practices that constitute discrimination against women, and to guarantee the full participation of women in policy-making, enhance their abilities to

earn their livings and achieve economic independence, and to stop discrimination against girls. Girls and boys should be treated equally as regards food, health care, education and social, economic and political activities. They should be treated equally in all fields of life"

It also underlined the necessary "participation of women on equal footage with men in the political process, elimination of violence against women and the enforcement of laws providing that marriage be based on free and full acceptance and the ban of female genital mutilation operations"

Following two years of serious preparations, on the national, regional and international levels, came the Beijing conference. With relevant documents and participating governments' commitments, it formed the corner stone as regards the issue of gender equality and progress. The Beijing Declaration and Platform constitute a proof of the performance of governments, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector in order to effect gender equality.

The Beijing Platform bolstered CEDAW and adopted the agreements reached in the World Summit for Children (WSC), 1990, the UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights, 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 and the Social Summit, 1995. All such agreements tackled the different aspects of development and human rights, respectively. Substantial attention was also paid to the role of women and girls. Furthermore, women- empowerment-related issues were also stressed as well as their equality within the framework of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, the International Year of the Family, the World Year of Tolerance, the Geneva Declaration for Rural Woman, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights was held in

Geneva/ Austria from 14th -25th of June. This conference underlined the fact that women's rights are the same as human rights and that violence against women is a violation of fundamental human rights. This came at a time when violent practices against women were deemed a private matter not to be interfered into by any agency, be it national or international. The only intervention allowed was confined to the non-governmental associations that oppose violence against women. However, such intervention remained limited given its want of local or international legal immunity. Stressing that violence against women is a violation of human rights served as a closure to the gap in CEDAW

Women have been the heart and soul of all these conferences, particularly the Cairo and Beijing conferences. Internationally, it was unanimously agreed on enhancing equality and equity of gender, thus offering hope to hundreds of millions of women and girls whose lives could be substantially improved. It also offered hope to children who suffered from famines and heavy deaths as well as hope to all mankind who inhabit this planet of a decent life for them and for their posterities.

Development of Women Empowerment Concepts:

The working paper on "Issues of Gender and Development", prepared by the Joint Committee for the United Nations agencies, dealt with women-related concepts within the framework of development in the past two decades. These include: provision of care, equity, combating poverty and empowerment.

1. Provision of Care:

Following the independence of the developing countries and the two World Wars, the concept of providing care was dominant among people involved in development and national societies. They thought that the woman is basically and mainly a mother and a wife. At that time, the initiatives were confined to providing care

and social services in addition to focusing on teaching women the principles of nutrition, economy and limited development skills.

2. Equity:

Focus here was more on the woman's economic role than on reproduction, raising children and housework. This relied on projecting an image of the productive woman and the contributions of her in the production cycle. The aim was to convince the parties concerned with development to transfer some economic resources to women. This trend underlines the prominence of the role of women as competent and eligible members. It also stresses the fact that they are not in need of care or aids; rather they constitute the missing part in development. The hypothesis underlying the concept of equity is that by facilitating access of women to the technological resources and loans, among other matters, the productivity that positively impinges on the economy and national development is enhanced. Thus, investing in women's productivity has economic and social returns. Nonetheless, this trend has not been without detractors- given that equity and resource-allocation to women is a legitimate right that cannot be premised on contestable profit, historical hypotheses.

3. Combating Poverty:

This concept is based on addressing women's issues within concern with poverty-combating strategies. This is achieved through encouraging governments to create job opportunities and concentrate on raising the family income; in addition to provision of basic needs to the gross population regardless of the income stratum.

However, economic reform and restructuring programs enhancing production for exportation and downplaying the importance of the production of women, curtailing spending on social matters and depending on women as regards provision of such services, do not help in closing the gap between the rich and

the poor; it increases it all the more.

Presently, the circle of interest has been broadened to engulf sustainable human development and interconnectedness in the economics of production.

In the working paper "Issues of Gender and Development", emphasis was put on priority being given to profound reading of the dynamic social relations in addition to granting women the necessary tools in order to improve their negotiation abilities. Integrating a woman's perspective on the macro level, necessitating working through the State, was also stressed. Integrating a woman's perspective in the official institutions and relevant policies over the past 2o · years has been a hard experience, if not disappointing.

Analyses concluded that empowerment is not a given right; it requires change from within. Every policy that targets rethinking the relations between men and women has to be based on granting women the tools that enable them to control their lives and test the relationships they wish to establish with the other and the consequent strategies put forth by women themselves, in addition to the alliances they forge in order to get to what they want. Participation-based planning and integration of civil society in development and women empowerment is significant in this respect.

It should be borne in mind that the corner stone of development are the grassroots. In effect, women societies, national associations and NGOs have to take part in policy making, based on the belief that a diverse, strong national community leads to a more representative, more credible government. Such governments are more able to implement more just development policies. Women societies have the power to rally women around demanding provision of basic needs, thus creating the place and the means to raise awareness and enable women to break free of the traditions and norms against them.

The development of the concepts of women empowerment was reflected in the literature of the UNFPA. The period 1995-1998 witnessed a transformation from the concept of woman in development to the concept of gender and development.

The above trend focused on women-related interests: provision of education and training to women, mother and child care, income-determining activities, awareness of women issues and relevance to population and development goals, enhancement of role of feminist centres and organizations on the local and national levels and researches on women's conditions.

However, the current trends of the Fund focus on gender issues relevant to the relation between population and development and reproduction, including: family planning, sexual health, girls equality, integration of men in the process of equality based on sex and contribution in familial responsibilities.

In the literature of different UN agencies, emphasis was laid on the significant empowerment of women. In the UNDP- 1997 Human Development Report: establishing creative commitment to gender equality can bolster every field of work in pursuit of poverty reduction. Women can add new momentum and pump new ideas and foundations for learning. Unless development programs be mindful of gender-related considerations, these can be imperiled. Should the poverty-reduction strategy fail to empower women, it will fail in empowering the society as a whole.

The 2002 Human Development Report

It stressed that human development is limited to three main elements: long and healthy life, knowledge acquisition and access to resources necessary for a decent standard of living. The major indicators, as set forth by Nader Farghani (supervisor of the report) are:

* Life expectancy upon birth as a general indicator of health as a whole.

* Educational knowledge as defined by the UNDP in measuring

human development.

* The measure of freedom as an expression of how far civil and political liberties are enjoyed. It serves also as a reflection of lack of freedom in the Arab region, until better measurements of freedom are put forth.

* The measure of gender empowerment as calculated by the UNDP in order to reflect the leverage of women in society and lack of women empowerment in the Arab region.

In some countries, women suffer from inequality in citizenship as regards legal rights. This is often obvious in relevant denial of right to vote and elect. Still, harnessing the abilities of the Arab woman, through the political and economic participation, is at its lowest world level. This is also evident in the low percentage of women representation in legislative councils and cabinets, workers and the skew towards feminizing unemployment. The report further indicates that the Arab countries are afflicted with another kind of poverty: want of capacities and opportunities. The report examines the roots of such poverty and traces three major deficiencies: lack of freedom, lack of women empowerment and lack of knowledge. In such important fields, the Arab region has been lagging behind compared to counterpart regions.

Lack of Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is an important aspect of human freedom. Arab countries are afflicted with a remarkable want of women empowerment; the Arab regions come in the pre-last position compared to world regions- according to the measure of women empowerment, the last being occupied by Sub Saharan Africa. It should be noted that Arab countries have had significant success in the education of girls, even though the rate of enrollment is still relatively low, particularly in higher education. This low level of women empowerment in the Arab region is attributed to the limited participation of women in political organizations.

The report underlines that woman empowerment is a significant aspect of human freedom. By applying the standard of women empowerment adopted by the UNDP, measuring the participation of women in economic, professional and political activities, by means of individual average income indicators, the rate of women in professional jobs and women's share of parliamentary seats respectively. It should be noted that Arab countries have had significant success in the education of girls, even though the rate of enrollment is still relatively low, particularly in higher education. This low level of women empowerment in the Arab region is attributed to the limited participation of women in political organizations. For example, women are denied right to elections in a country that has an elected national council. In other countries, even though legal equality between man and woman is established, as regards entitlement to political rights, women representation remains low in all political structures. The rate of women in Arab parliaments is still less than in any other world region. According to the 2000 Human Development Report, women occupy 3.5% compared to 4.2% in Eastern Asia (except China), 8.4% in Sub Saharan Africa, 21.7% in South-Eastern Asia and the Pacific, 12.9% in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and 21.2% in Eastern Asia (including China).

The 2005 Human Development Report

"Towards Advancement of Women in the Arab Region: Concepts and Issues". The report, under the subtitle Concepts, dealt with:

The report indicates that man and woman are equal just for being human. They have an original right to enjoy a decent life both materially and morally. This has been the sublime goal of human development. Thus, the report views advancement of women within a framework that combines both human rights and human development. Advancement of women, within human rights, is part of societal entitlement to freedom, in its broadest

sense. The definition of freedom is not confined here to full entitlement to civil and political liberties. They constitute the pillars of citizenship. It also extends to breaking free of ignorance, ailment, want, fear and all forms of human dignity degradation.

In the context of the concept of human development, advancement of women requires:

* Complete equality between man and woman in the opportunity to gain human skills and harness them.

* Insurance of citizenship rights to all women equally with men.

* Recognition of gender difference and respect of such difference. Women are different than men. However, this does not mean that they are in any way deficient. This difference should never be used to substantiate theories calling for gender inequality or any form of discrimination between them.

The issue of "inside" and "outside"

The spread of the concept of women empowerment in the Arab region have been met with anger from some influential socio-political powers in the community. They were of the view that the concept was "imposed" by the West, and not the result of realities or needs of Arab societies which entrench the role of the family as a cornerstone of any community. Some even resisted gender-perspective-based development plans, as well as governments and feminist organizations that apply it.

Nonetheless, the compulsory anatomical segregation between inside and outside was not possible nowadays: what we call the culture of the "outside" already lives in Arab societies, particularly in relation to values and behaviours, thanks to the mushrooming globalization of Arab societies. Furthermore, such segregation will not do the Arab world good as far as progress is concerned. It is an original tendency that has been positively influenced, since the beginning of the Arab renaissance, by the best achievements of mankind in the current western culture.

More precisely, there is a mostly-close association between the

struggle for women emancipation in Arab countries as a liberal trend in society and women emancipation movements all over the world, including the West. The efforts exerted by international organizations are especially important in this respect, particularly in relation to international agreements, conventions, mechanisms and activities aiming at providing protection of women's rights and justice.

However, the blunt call for reform from outside, even if compulsory, generated negative reactions by some societal strata. These reactions targeted the agenda of women empowerment, imposed by hegemonic Western powers, as an aggression? on Arab culture and national independence alike.

The report calls for maintaining women advancement, intellectually and professionally alike, as a cornerstone of an Arab project for human renaissance. The progress of women, within the perspective of combating despotism inside and appropriation from outside, is part and parcel of freedom and formidability to all Arabs, men and women alike.

Economic Empowerment of Women

Empowering women, a conclusive objective of the 1995 Beijing Platform, requires a comprehensive approach that addresses 3 interrelated dimensions:

* The dominant gender ideologies that entrench social, cultural, economic and political phenomena of gender inequality.

* Equal access to resources and productive assets (agricultural lands, soft loans, maintaining place of residence, ample space for project development, labour-saving and production-enhancing technologies at an affordable cost, inexpensive quality services (education, skill training, health and reproductive health as well as child care)

* The above dimensions represent a prerequisite for the third one, namely, the potential access of Arab women to have a paid work and control over their revenues. The existent gender-based

barriers against the entitlement of Arab women to their rights in these respects are, in fact, economically, socially and politically undermining.

These dimensions represent the Arab woman's ability to have access to services and productive resources, including control over use of such resources. Amongst the aspects in support of women's ability, there is knowledge that surmounts conventional methods of reading and writing, mathematics or even acquisition of school or university degrees. While these degrees may be prerequisites, it is noticeable that economic and social empowerment of women necessitates the fulfillment of knowledge-related requirements:

Legal Knowledge: enables the Arab woman to know her legal rights and practice them. It also guarantees her normative and legal rights.

Economic Knowledge: enables the Arab woman to know her economic rights and understand the requirements of the labour market better.

Technological knowledge: enables the Arab woman to access new technologies of communication and information in the age of globalization.

It is very important to address the multi-faceted dimensions of knowledge and illiteracy. It should also be taken into account while attending to the rampant, gender-based inconsistency between supply and demand of women labour inn the age of globalization.

Specific focus on economic empowerment of Arab women in the age of globalization reiterates the ability of the woman relevant to equal access to education and skill training required by the labour market. Even though the Arab region has made remarkable achievements during the past decades, still remains some glaring gaps between both genders as regards the quality of education, compatibility of training to the market needs. These factors sustain the effect of gender-based stereotypes pertinent to economic

activities, which are not deservedly recognized in the Arab labour market.

Gender-based professional discrimination is an ever-present trend (this part is not clear in the typing. I couldn't translate). It is clearly related to another pattern that is no less present all over the world. It is concerned with restricting a woman's main responsibility, if not the only, most of the time, in the process of social reproduction, including unpaid attending to children and the elderly. Nonetheless, the evidence available points to the fact that professional discrimination in itself is not the only type of discrimination. Discrimination covers the gender-based discrepancy in wages and access to job opportunities by female labour in possession of required skills. This is where gender gaps look relatively narrow in the developed industrial economies.

The Role of Arab Non-Governmental Organizations in Women Empowerment

The positive world trend in support of women progress has left its imprint on the status of women in the Arab region. The last years have witnessed an unmissed activity on local and Arab levels of feminist NGOs and all agencies interested in women. Most importantly, there were preparations for parallel forums of formal conferences in Cairo and Beijing. National and Arab action plans were adopted based on the documents provided by the conferees in line with the substantive conditions and future outlooks.

During the 1990s, Arab NGOs entrenched their effective role as a social mediator and a tool for change, thanks to their diligent and sustainable efforts in the different economic, social and cultural fields in order to harness the energies of the people, men and women, in productive businesses and voluntary activities to the best interest of their local communities. Non-governmental organizations have earned recognition of their important role, first by the public and then by governments and international

organizations. No doubt, the success these achieved proved their credibility and galvanized the masses. Work, through NGOs, has been gaining more organization and closeness to the grass roots, more responsiveness to the needs of the people and more coordination with governmental bodies and international organizations.

The roles and missions of Arab NGOs are as different as the political regimes and social values system. Their role gained momentum following the relative failure of governments during the 80s. They effected the desired development notwithstanding the affluence of some Arab regions. They also gained momentum following failure to effect a balance between economic development, on one hand, and social development, on the other, and the failure to ensure the necessary requirements of sustainable development as provided in the privatization policy and the reduced role of Sate in managing the economy during the first half of the 90s. This was in tandem with lifting subsidy off low-income families, dashing the hopes of the people, especially women, to improve their deteriorating living conditions. All of these led to bolstering the role of NGOs, particularly, in most-poor countries. They effectively contributed to the provision of services states could not meet, particularly assisted women with a view to raising the standard of living and improving the quality of life.

The instruments of international conferences stressed that realization of relevant objectives and agendas requires access of women to decision-making positions: top-to-bottom integration of women in the design and implementation of plans and programs targeting positive change. Feminist NGOs played a significantly major role in the formulation of these documents, following arduous efforts to assume an effective role in parallel forums. NGOs organized forums before and after international formal conferences. They also set forth action plans and programs on national, regional and international levels to follow up the

implementation of agreements. Amongst these forums is the Arab Non-Governmental Organization Forum, held in Amman, 4-8th, April 1993, prior to the ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development). It adopted a vital document as a reference to participant organizations to the Conference. The Conference issued "Amman Declaration", still a significant reference on the issue of population and development in the Arab countries.

Arab feminist NGOs also organized a forum in Amman/ Jordan prior to the Beijing Conference. It was attended by 900 representatives from 16 Arab countries. The forum adopted a popular document and reported to the ESCWA, which supervised the official Arab conference held in the pipeline to the Beijing conference. Following Beijing, a forum for Arab feminist organizations was held in Amman/Jordan, 22nd-23th September 1996 to adopt an Arab action plan for the implementation of the Beijing Platform. Female representatives from 12 states took part.

The role of Arab NGOs increased following a sequence of local, Arab and international meetings on reproductive health. The UNFPA had a major role in this respect: enhanced several projects executed by NGOs. This had a great impact on the level of public awareness as regards issues of population, reproductive rights and health. The Fund took part in financing the first and second conferences for Arab national organizations, under the theme "Participation, Giving, Development", held in Cairo 1989, 1997.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) – the Arab world region – has exerted obvious efforts in the different national, Arab and international activities. It had influence in creating a new perspective of the role of Arab women. It reflected the current reality and provided significant recommendations relevant to women as far as reproductive health and support for youth. It is no longer possible to ignore the power of such Arab

NGOs due to their enormous number and closeness to the grassroots, in addition to the high capacity and efficiency these enjoy regarding implementation of development programs. Most important of these are feminist NGOs which assume a major role in order to effect gender equality, empowerment and enhanced participation in development.

Feminist organizations have several and diverse activities according to the objectives of each organization and field. Consequently, the efforts of Arab NGOs, as regards women empowerment, are as diverse as the specialization and interest of the organization:

1. Legal Empowerment:

Organizations focused on the convention of symposia, seminars and workshops in subjects pertinent to women issues: marital and family rights, divorce, citizenship laws, labour law, social security, penal codes and the application of the quota as a transitional mechanism for women to have access to municipal councils, parliaments and disseminate the culture of human rights and women and children rights.

2. Economic Empowerment:

Qualifying and training women comes at the forefront of the interests of these organizations in addition to help, and moral and financial assistance. Training of women developed into management of small enterprises, help to find job opportunities in the labour market, support for the working woman in her call for better work conditions, health and social insurance, daycare facilities, with a view to helping women balance their familial responsibilities and work obligations, in addition to shedding light on the magnitude of unemployment and poverty among women.

3. Political Empowerment:

Given that most laws of societies prohibit working in politics, feminist organizations remained away from politics for many years. However, as political life and conditions developed in the

Arab region, they left their imprint on the work of feminist organizations. their activities varied between organizing sit-ins, celebrations, calls for political issues, including the Palestinian issue, in addition to educating women on necessary participation in elections as candidates and electorate for municipalities, parliaments; and on demanding their full political rights equal to man.

4. Social Empowerment:

Feminist organizations assumed a vital role in opening classes for combating illiteracy, organizing workshop to enhance awareness of women's social, health and familial rights. Centres offering services in the field of reproductive health were also opened to combat violence and discrimination against women and to fight women-exclusive poverty. Furthermore, offices for familial guidance were opened to provide consultative, legal and social services to assist women in overcoming their family problems, ensure their human and social rights; in addition to hostels for the elderly, special needs and orphans. These also struggled to integrate gender in the different institutions and ministries, encouraged cooperative businesses among rural women, worked hard to improve the image of women in the media and change stereotypes of women away from abusing them as a promotional commodity for consumption.

Feminist Non-governmental Organizations: Obstacles:

1. Legal aspect: outdated laws do not go along with the nature of progress. This constitutes a barricade against the progress of NGOs.

2. Financial aspect: financing is a significant element in the establishment of projects and implementation. It is important as well on many levels and within the framework of women's issues specifically.

3. Low participation of women in decision-making positions: the absence of women from many decision-making

positions in parliaments, municipalities and government bodies does not help embrace the issues proposed by NGOs, guaranteeing support for better performance and facilitation of complications imposed by the outdated social conceptions of women.

4. **Lack of necessary training and qualification of male and female workers in NGOs:** was in the field of planning, strategies, follow up, management, and galvanization of women masses for organized work, which empowers them and develops their abilities against conventional social values resulting from the passé social heritage.

5. **Low level of coordination and cooperation among organizations:** this does not help consolidate efforts around specific issues for which wide scale campaigns are organized within the field of women empowerment.

6. **Weak galvanization of young elements in national work:** particularly the voluntary one. Due to the high cost of living, low wages and the necessity to work overtime, in addition to lack of sufficient time to be affiliated and work with NGOs.

7. **Dominant cultural conceptions:** these do not encourage team work, particularly, the voluntary. They entrench selfishness, individualism, profiteering and negligence of public work.

The current status of Arab women:

International recommendations reflected in the outcomes of international conferences on women, and other conferences including the ICPD, have positively affected the status of Arab women. Importantly, this resulted in the ratification by 18 countries of CEDAW. Such Convention provided a healthy environment and a framework through which women activists can move to call for entrenching women rights, better reality, finding mechanisms interested in women and shedding light on most important problems against advancement of women and conducting researches and studies on their status.

Despite the relative improvement in women's conditions since the Cairo ICPD, the absence of real equality, effective participation in development, increasing violence against women, lack of economic and social security for women, the inferior view of them, discard from decision-making positions remain the main characteristics of women conditions in the Arab world even though different.

As pressures on the Arab world increase, Arab women's problems aggravate as a result of imperialist and Zionist stratagems, that seeks imposition of full hegemony on the region militarily, economically and politically to go on looting their natural wealth and controlling their markets and peoples' destinies, in addition to the absence of a comprehensive and just settlement for the Palestinian cause and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Given that the situation of women in all the Arab countries is dependent on dominant economic, political and social conditions, women still suffer negatively and acutely from public problems sustained by Arab peoples. They also suffer from specific problems as a result of the glaring discrimination they are exposed to: poverty, wars, armed conflicts, military expenditure, unemployment, debts, absence of democracy and political pluralism, absence of women from decision-making positions, rampant illiteracy among women, their legal situation and violence against women.

The 2000 action plan of Arab NGOs provides that "the high rate of debts of many Arab countries, the burdens of serving foreign debt, and the fact that $ 670 billion, currently estimated at $ 2400 billion of Arab capital is outside the Arab world, are among the major impediments against development plans in the Arab countries. The economic reform policy, restructuring and unjust conditions imposed by the IMF and the WB, the non-application of Arab agreements on economic coordination among Arab countries in order to reach integration, even the establishment of the Arab

common market lead to shrinking and undermining economic growth. This negatively affects job opportunities and the number of workers in countries. In this context, women remain the main victim due to the high rate of unemployment. This also leads to the discrepancy between incomes and the social imbalance that result in more crimes, making any talk of progress of women useless".

Such a reality leaves a negative imprint on the role of women in the lives of their countries: political, economic and social.

Even though the constitutions and legislations of some Arab countries provide for entitlement of women to their rights, non-discrimination between men and women in rights and obligations, there is an evident discrimination against women in many applicable laws and legislations. For example, personal laws, penal codes, citizenship, social security, retirement laws; all these are negative elements against the progress of women. Women are further subjected to multiple forms of discrimination for being women particularly as regards access to decision-making positions.

Experience proved that political and economic change processes and the amendments of laws and legislations did not really affect essential change regarding the status and role of women, because concepts and cultural values governing its social, economic and political movement did not change.

Main issues against women empowerment

* Women, in most-if not all- Arab countries, have been receptive of pre-demarked politics, without having any influence in local, regional and world activities relevant to leadership and administration of society.

* It has become clear that integration of women in local politics and foreign relations is first and foremost attributed to the political will of governance. Unless governments realize the necessary integration of women in governance, whether by assuming prominent political positions, granting room to NGOs and civil

society organizations, to take part in the study of matters relevant to human and women rights, putting an end to the pains of refugees, the destitute and migrants, devising policies related to population and social issues, the role of women will remain marginal in the political, economic, social and cultural lives of their countries.

*Addressing negative and serious impacts of norms, traditions and misconceptions of religious teachings remain the most important challenges facing the struggle of Arab societies, with a view to effecting development and changing social inequities and out datedness. The aim is to entrench the principles of justice, eliminate inequity and discrimination against women. these principles constitute an integral part of the main components of the environment of a progressive system, based on respect of citizenship and human rights, now a slogan and a law, in addition to their being inevitable and vital for the course of social progress generally.

* One of the most important obstacles against improvement of legal status of women is the gap between women's rights guaranteed by laws and legislations and actual entitlement to these. This stems from the fact that the formal agencies concerned with cementing and protecting these rights are not committed. Thus, many legal provisions related to some women's rights turn into just paperwork and do not help in the improvement of women's legal position.

* Women suffer from the negative social heritage, the total of mainstream concepts, values, traditions, and norms, which deny equality and full entitlement to human rights to women. This creates a hot bed for the growth of outdated fundamentalist trends and distorted perspective as regards many religious rulings. For example, there are much legal potential that can be used by women to protect their material and moral rights through registering conditions within marriage contracts. Still, it is rarely

used because it is not favoured by many social strata.

* Women are ignorant of their rights and legal illiteracy is rampant among women. There is lack of awareness of women's rights, as provided by legislations and international conventions in particular, among society members.

* The negative impacts due to absence of democracy in most Arab countries, ban on political parties, weak civil society organizations, absence of parliamentary life in a number of countries, all these led to denying women power and decision-making positions and depriving them of full entitlement to their rights and improvement of legal position and respect of rights.

* Lack of appropriate national mechanisms, in most Arab countries, for supporting and venerating human rights of women, monitoring violations and imposing sanctions.

Based on the study on Arab women, supervised by the International Population Council, Cairo, 1995, dealing with most major issues of relevance to Arab women, it can be noted that:

* Almost all legal systems, in all Arab countries, were devised in light of the Islamic Shari'ah provisions, particularly those relevant to family laws, despite colossal differences in the interpretation and application of these provisions.

* The constitutions of most Arab countries have stipulated on unconditioned gender equality and right to lead a life without discrimination, but none of these constitutions provided specifically for gender-based discrimination asa possible field.

* There is a wide difference regarding the degree of restriction on women's right to travel. For example, there are restrictions imposed on the married woman different than imposed on unmarried ones. Also, some countries conditions that the husband must approve in order to get a passport, even though this approval is not needed in other countries.

* The citizenship law in all Arab countries, except Tunisia,

entitles the father only to grant his children his citizenship, whether the wife is holder of same citizenship as his or not. As a result, thousands of women suffer from hard problems as regards raising their children in their home countries. In many cases, children become nation-less and lose their rights to free education or health care or work.

* 18 of 22 Arab countries, members of the League of Arab States ratified CEDAW.

* However, it is noticeable that the Arab countries that ratified CEDAW did not set forth effective mechanisms for application of items. Most of them did not amend their national laws and systems contradictory to the provisions and spirit of the Convention. There is no obvious difference as regards the legal status of women between the Arab countries that ratified the Convention and the ones that did not.

* Even though the Arab woman faces many challenges, there are many achievements as well that reflect her aspirations to more accomplishments relevant to the slogan of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Development, Peace, Equality, in addition to decisive areas of interest such as health, education, work, elimination of discrimination and violence against her and others.

* These conditions require collaborated efforts, coordination and cooperation with governments, international organizations, Arab NGOs, on both national and regional levels, through their different networks and within the framework of a platform that sheds light on most prominent problems and obstacles against the development of Arab women and effective participation in the various fields of development, in addition to contributing to addressing all political, economic and social challenges facing the Arab region.

Recommendations:

In light of the current situation of Arab women, in order to realize women empowerment and achieve the necessary positive

change, certain measures on the levels of policies and programs, have to be taken to eliminate the legal impediments against participation of women in public life, and raising the level of social awareness. This is realized by effective programs of public education and communication, in addition to entrenchment of awareness that gains realized by women benefit the whole society. In order to achieve equality and equity, bridge the gender gap, enhance full and equal participation of women in development, civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination, and access to power structures and decision-making positions, the following are recommended:

First: the Field of Empowerment:

1- Education is one of the main objectives the Arab girl should be guaranteed in order to empower her. Education is the key to improved status of women and bolsters their assumption of decision-making positions. Taking into account that women are most prone to violence and poverty despite their mushrooming role in economic and social development, focus should be laid mainly on education, culture, training and women care as vital elements of human development. This necessitates increasing the legal age for consent to marriage and contracting it, in addition to prohibiting the completion of marriage if not by free will, banning girls from dropping out of school in order not to add to the number of female illiteracy which constitutes a burden to the family and national economy.

2- Demand of a comprehensive review of educational curricula to guarantee a social upbringing based on the values of equality and justice. The subject of human rights, declarations, and international agreements concerned with elimination of discrimination against women and protection of the girl child should be taught.

3- Work on effecting gender equality in the field of economic

activity relevant to finance and credit by banks and social funds to establish small enterprises, develop the abilities of women in the field of productive families, as one of the means to address unemployment and female poverty.

4- Representation of women in all institutions concerned with public planning of State and decision-making positions, in addition to committees in charge of studying and modernizing systems, laws and legislations, particularly on women, children and family. Gender should be integrated in the different sectors included in the economic and social plans in order to bridge the gender gap.

5- Guaranteed representation of women in delegations participant to international conferences and regional proceedings, diplomatic corps, UN Jordan mission and affiliated agencies.

6- Maintain gains realized by women in different fields and cement these with new ones, particularly in the field of work amidst economic crises, rampant unemployment, and reactionary calls for women to stay at home to solve the problem of unemployment. Women should be spared the influence of these calls, in order to overcome reactionary re-insurgence. Women have to be firmly convinced that they play an important role in society and in public life and that they have to overcome barricades against this.

7- Ensure efficient use of all resources including women and harness their full potentials in the process of development. Women represent half of the human power that must be used in the economic, cultural and civilizational framework of all. In this respect, it is important to depend on the regional and international legislations which provide countries with guidelines on formulating a new vision and a new shape of national policies with a view to encouraging full participation of women in the labour market, creating equal opportunities for women in education, training, qualification and work as well as employment and promotion in decision-making positions.

8- Governments and NGOs have to exert necessary efforts to guarantee that women of all ages who have not received formal education are ensured special informal education that helps them find a paid job, know their legal rights, obtain information on the health of family, children and nutrition, control fertility and information on services they are entitled to.

9- Encourage women to join political parties and the different civil society organizations, particularly unions. Political parties are considered the most sublime form of organized political work, schools for raising political awareness of women and help them participate in political work including decision-making.

10- Provide a solid basis for integrating issues of interest to women in the process of comprehensive development. This necessarily requires much effort to identify these issues, set miniature models for working in social, cultural, economic and political environments. This kind of work can be assumed by national and regional research institutions, the United Nations and other international agencies. Attention must be dedicated to enhancing women's abilities in the field of planning.

Second: Policies, Programs and Mechanisms

1. Find a ministerial authority responsible for following up on women's issues and monitoring the application of women empowerment concepts in all government and non-governmental sectors and the private sector.

2. Urge governments that have not formed national committees on women affairs nor set national strategies for the progress of women to expedite in this respect, by putting forth strategies and programs to improve the realities of women. This should be based on resolutions and recommendations of international conferences, including the ICPD held in Cairo and Beijing conference, and work on implementation, in addition to coordination with government and non-governmental bodies involved in empowerment of women.

3. Invite and encourage ratification of CEDAW by countries which have not ratified it, implement its provisions and The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women as well as the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) and reflect the articles of these conventions and programs in national laws having passed them in the necessary legislative frameworks.

4. Devise programs and plans to address the problem of poverty. One method is to realize development and make it more comprehensive as regards social and regional aspects. This means that it should be basically oriented towards addressing some phenomena, including- if not at the foremost- integration of women in economic activity. Their benefits should be expanded to cover rural and nomad areas, amidst policies that seek to broaden the role of rural women in public life. Creating job opportunities to Arab women helps reduce the rate of dependency, thus increase the family income and raise the standard of living, address unemployment, reduce poverty, bridge the income gap and guarantee social security. Evidence point that the relation between poverty and high fertility is closely associated with the low economic and social status of women. Thus, development programs that lead to enhancing the status of women assume a vital status in the policy of combating poverty and work on reducing fertility.

5. Adopt policies, legislations and measures that guarantee women's rights and effect the necessary changes on locally-applicable legislations. Thus, it should include taking redressing measures against violence of all forms. For example, proper sanctions should be imposed on familial violence and be implemented. The UN and specialized agencies as well as Arab organizations are called upon to dedicate special attention to women subjected to physical and psychological violence at times

of aggression, occupation, armed conflicts and imposition of economic sanctions.

6. The UN must study the effect of economic reform and restructuring programs on economic and social development. This would result in a minimal reduction of their negative impacts on women by preventing marginalization in economic and social activities and controlling these, in addition to taking actions to limit cases of injustice and economic discrepancy, elimination of poverty and realization of social development.

7. Devise national policies that offer equal opportunities to women in education, training and work. These should also ensure their rights, access to and promotion in decision-making positions. The policies should further harness their potentials for integration into development, enhancement of democracy, maintained and sustainable practice of human rights and respect of women's rights as human rights.

8. Form a network of Arab NGOs capable of providing immediate direct contacts, with a view to exchanging experiences, publications, results of studies and researches and assume a consultative footing in the UN Economic and Social Council, in addition to participating in regular meetings on women's issues.

9. Establish an Arab Fund to support the activities of Arab feminist NGOs, help them implement development projects in local societies, provide necessary training and qualification, in addition to enhancing the capacities, institutional and technical, of these organizations.

10. Support NGOs as a cornerstone in local communities and representatives of the grassroots, particularly those based on democratic foundations, and bolster their credibility during the implementation of residential programs, awareness or promotional programs, provision of services to women, men and adolescents, in addition to integrating them in decision-making on the national level, maintaining their independence and non-intervention in

internal affairs.

Third: The Field of Laws

1. Filter laws of articles containing discrimination against women in line with the changes and developments that have affected the society and status of women, and with articles of international agreements. Develop public awareness of society including all categories on international conventions and legislations pertinent to women's rights as human. Consolidate governmental and non-governmental efforts in executing legal literacy-enhancing programs for women in particular and dedicating the media for that purpose.

2. Call upon Arab countries to apply international conventions and agreements as well as programs of action adopted by different conferences relevant to addressing all problems and obstacles against advancement of women and taking measures and finding assisting mechanisms.

3. Exercise pressure to allocate defined seats in parliaments and local councils for women as a transitional measure to help urge competent women join elections and introduce society to the good performance of women. This is in tandem with the provisions of Article IV of the CEDAW, as well as the resolution by the Economic and social Council No. 1990/15 which defined the rate at 30% and was adopted by the Beijing Platform for Action.

4. Set modern and democratic election laws ensuring equality among citizens and eliminate restrictions and measures hampering the election process, and guarantee fair elections as an expression of the will of the people particularly women.

5. Entitle feminist NGOs to lodge complaints relevant to violation of women's rights directly to international organizations and give them the right to press motions before the human rights commissioner, on major violations of women's rights. Expedite the adoption of the optional protocol of CEDAW, after removing the many reservations against application.

6. Protect the rights of working women particularly as regards legislations of uniform labour and women in informal labour sectors, apply adopted ones and address negative impacts on women work, as a result of economic reform and restructuring policies.

7. Work on addressing existent discrimination against women in the citizenship law, common in most Arab countries, whereby women is treated equally to man regarding citizenship transfer to children in case of marriage to a foreigner.

8. Reflect international laws and conventions in local ones having taken the necessary legislative measures and applied them in reality.

9. Feminist organization are incumbent upon to educate women about their rights, disseminate the articles of CEDAW among women on all levels, rural and urban, to introduce women to the entitlements to rights of international conventions, harness the media in this respect and urge to exercise these rights, develop and modernize the outdated of them.

10. Find branches of documentation centres, information banks and libraries for organized feminist work, inclusive of literature on women and books written by female writers who have experiences at work in favour of women's issues over the history. Collect working papers and studies on women, on local, Arab and international levels, particularly relevant to technical experiences of the world and Arab progressive feminist movement, in addition to statistical bulletins on women in Jordan, so that they may constitute a reference to women and encourage conducting scientific research and writing studies on women.

Fourth: Political Work and Decision- Making Positions:

1. Encourage competent, talented, leading women who practiced public work to run for elections at different levels, with a view to enhancing female representation on the level of local councils and parliaments and ensuring the support of feminist

movements to them, regardless of their partisan, intellectual and political affiliations to enhance female representation in general.

2. Form committees on women's issues within parliamentary councils, enhance inter-communication of feminist organizations with these committees, introduce them to legislations and bills influencing women, study relevant modernization and abrogate discriminatory articles contained.

3. Train feminist organizations on techniques of mobilization and lobbying within parliaments and work along with human rights organizations and others interested in women.

4. Establish institutes for parliamentary studies, training and education, open to men and women competing for elections on all levels. The mission of such establishment would be to offer as many opportunities as possible to teach the arts of organized political and parliamentary work. Feminist organizations should assume a role in their establishment together with other civil society organizations.

5. Political parties must attract women to political work through embracing their demands; defending their rights; devising mechanisms and programs for training women and enhancing their role in decision-making; helping them bolster their chances of winning election races; defending their legal rights and putting them into practice.

6. Enhance cooperation and coordination among Arab feminist organizations and between them and international feminist organizations to exchange experiences and experiments to the best interest of women's issues and to enhance struggle relations and develop them in favour of liberation causes. This would also help resist aggression and occupation, serve urgent issues of the age: maintaining world peace; enhancing democracy, human rights, public freedoms; protecting the environment; addressing problems of unemployment, poverty, backwardness and debts; facing the challenges of economic globalization policies and

negative impacts; establishing a new international economic system based on equal relations and against all forms of dependency; and realizing social progress and social justice.

7. Take part in public struggle for maintaining an environment of world peace, enhancing and protecting human rights, democracy, and peaceful dispute settlement in accordance with principles represented in discarding forceful threat. Refrain from using force against territorial integrity or for political exploitation. Respect sovereignty as provided in the UN Charter. All these form a vital factor of women advancement. Peace is closely related to gender equality and development.

Fifth: Media and Education

1. Use different media including modern means of communication to raise the awareness of the recommendations of the ICPD, particularly in relation to the important empowerment of women and integration in development plans and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against them.

2. Make use of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to organize different proceedings and activities that help shed light on the significant event and the necessary application of the articles of the Declaration in reality, and regarding women's rights as human rights.

3. Put into effect the role of the media, audible, visual or readable, in the field of addressing subjects relevant to women's rights, violence practiced against girls and women including female genital mutilation and in the field of enhancing human rights.

4. Develop oriented informational programs in order to change stereotypes about women, shed light on women's potentials and the reality of the role they can assume if empowered and qualified with education and knowledge.

5. Print the documents adopted by international conferences, namely, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 2000 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, Beijing Platform for Action, the ICPD Program for Action (Cairo), the documents of the Rio Summit, the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) o and hold symposia and meetings to educate women on a wide scale on relevant articles, urging them to demand application in reality to develop the reality of the Arab woman.

6. Allocate a portion of resources to support NGOs directly by the UNFPA to implement projects related to education and provision of reproductive health services; enhance their efficiency; discourage dependence on governments to provide required financial support and benefit from the Barcelona Declaration which dedicated sums for immediate support of NGOs.

7. Generate new sources of finance to cover expenditure required for the implementation of the ICPD program; benefit from debt swap, thus, resources are covered and debt relieved on heavily-indebted countries; and allocating a portion to public education particularly in the field of equality, equity and empowerment of women.

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5. The 2005 Human Development Report.

Engineer Mosa El Ma'ytah*

Women empowerment is an essential issue, as it constitutes in my opinion an integral part of human rights; this is why I shall talk about both issues. Human rights also gain greater significance with respect to the committees and organizations working on peace and solidarity. No peace or development could be achieved anywhere in the world when civil conflicts are raging. An advanced level of human rights cannot be attained without an infrastructure of democracy, for we cannot do with one concept without the other. Democracy means the participation of citizens, and this is the crucial mission of Solidarity Committees.

I believe that AAPSO, along with its committees should pay more attention to the issues of human rights, since its establishment , it has a large scope of experience which should be as part and parcel of women empowerment-related issues because of its paramount significance.

As we address the present, we need to capitalize on the experiences of the past in the 50s or 60s. I believe that our main cause is human rights because we cannot address women issues unless there is a real democracy based on political pluralism and social justice that guarantee the participation of citizens in decision making, and which allow them to select their leaders

*** Secretary of the Jordinian Solidarity and Peace Committee.**
- Tranlated by: Mr. Hassan Thabet.

freely and democratically. Democracy allows establishing relations among nations on equal terms regardless of the size or potentials of each country.

I need to outline some points; I believe that we should agree that globalization is a natural outcome of world scientific progress, especially in the field of telecommunications and information technologies. In my opinion we cannot say that we are for or against globalization because it's a natural product that cannot be reversed. Yet the question is how to make use of it? Do we really support a kind of globalization that is used by one dominant power to control other nations' fortunes? Anyway, I believe that we can make use of this progress, and it is up to nations to seize the opportunity and get hold of the tremendous volume of information available in all domains. Whether culture, science, social, ... etc.

Another important issue is that globalization has turned the world into a small village; nothing can hide for too long in any country and facts are no longer held in secret. This is specifically crucial for the realization of democracy. Rarely did we hear before about oppression in any county. And regardless of the fact that oppression might persist, people know it is there. No country could take any measure without the world knowing about it. This is one benefit of globalization which helped in recent years to widen the scope of human rights and democracy and include issues such as women empowerment and gender equality. We need to admit that enjoying the minimum standard of these issues must be granted for individuals and nations. Ignorant people do not have computers, nor do they use the Internet, and this should be taken into consideration. Even the use of Internet requires a minimum standard of livelihood and cultural awareness. I noticed during the past two years that only 2.5% of people access the Internet in the Arab region, and this is really far beyond European countries. It has to do with the absence of democracy, degradation of livelihood and the level of education and culture in Arab and most

of the third world countries: Asia and Africa. In the meantime, and despite the benefits provided by such progress, there are efforts exerted by some countries, especially the US to harness this progress only to dominate the world and impose its pattern. I believe those attempts shall not bear fruit because they run in discord with the essence of globalization which unites the world. This unity is for the aim of benefiting from progress and scientific achievements and creating a broad area of understanding between the nations of the world. Yet, due respect should be paid to the peculiarities and cultures of nations, though they need to interact effectively. The US and some European countries are manipulating the spread of the concepts of human rights and democracy to impose hegemony over the fortunes of nations, exploiting all means provided by globalization, including the military option, as is the case in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US and other European countries are manipulating those concepts in order to justify their intervention in countries that do not yield to their own discretion and attempt at changing their regimes, while overlooking numerous instances of human rights violations taking place in allied countries. A negative attitude was adopted by many Arab regimes in Africa and Asia, and many religious, ideological and fundamental groups; they objected to openness, democracy and human rights under the pretext that they do not want foreign interference; rather they want to maintain their cultural, religious and social identities, which ultimately mean preserving their own regimes, thus knocking off democracy.

As for fundamental groups, they strive to uproot concepts of democracy and rule of people only to substitute them with a culture of the unknown to instill ignorance and backwardness in their societies. The attempts by the US to dominate the world and her refusal of using democracy to object to foreign interferences by some regimes, though contradictory to each other, yet they have the same effect on nations world-wide. The outcome is the

deprivation of citizens of their right to participation and democracy, the perpetuation of corruption and unipolar hegemony over the fortunes of nations and the imposition of distorted values and cultures on upcoming generations.

I recall reading a press report on Hollywood's Oscar Awards, where an American movie critic said that whoever attends this festival should take anti-depressants bills because all movies either instigate violence or use violence, and this of course adversely affect societies. This is the kind of culture imposed by the unipolar power.

Yet, and as a result of globalization and the pressure of public opinion, many regimes are separate from their peoples, and others, out of fear of world and public opinion, adapted formally; they held nominal local or parliamentarian elections, oftenly rigged. Women do not have their say in this regard; in the Jordanian Parliament for example, there is no political role for men or women parliamentarians, I mean there are no draft laws or political programs addressing issues related to women and human rights. Those issues must lie at the heart of any struggle to develop a basis for democracy. Many Parliaments do not play their presumed roles. This is why a number of international organizations wrote recently about the so-called "deceptive democracy", which means running meaningless elections, prohibiting political pluralism and power handover. In most countries of the Arab region and the third world there is a lack of peaceful and democratic handover of power, it is either done due to death of the ruler or by use of force.

The same goes to issues related to rights of women; the progress made is only nominal and solely exemplified in appointing women ministers or women parliamentarians. Many political, economic and social issues related to woman are not yet resolved, such as her economic independence, her right to file for

divorce or demand inheritance in personal status and family laws. In Jordan, though we have 3-4 women ministers and 6-7 women parliamentarians, women are not vindicated enough, and sorely sometimes women support debates that stand against their own favor. Two years ago there was this famous debate on a draft law on crimes of honor killing, and another one on the so-called the Law of Khol' (the right of a Muslim woman to divorce herself from her husband without his consent if she can no longer bear life with him for certain reasons). Surprisingly, half the women in the Parliament voted against this law, which means there is some sort of inconsistency.

Finally, I believe we need to capitalize on the potentials of globalization, especially in relation to democracy and human rights, which are not restricted to political freedoms, but which encompass all rights of individuals to decent livelihood, equal opportunities of work, education and medication and access to culture regardless of financial capabilities. Also this means the rights of nations to live in peace without foreign intervention and the creation of a front that would stand against countries of double-measures policy, on top of which is the US, in relation to international issues.

Let's not forget that human rights issues receive due attention in Lebanon, while they are in Palestine. We need to create a world front to stop U.S. attempts to generate points of tension, the last of which is related to the Balkans, and regardless of our position in respect to the independence of the Kosovo Republic, the area is raging with tensions because of the US in the first place.

Thanks

Contribution onto Axis VI

Dr. Sayed Abdel-Rasul (Egyptian Solidarity Committee)

At the outset, thank you for listening...Thanks to AAPSO for holding this distinguished conference with all prominent speakers.

In my comment, I would like to pay a special tribute to Mrs. Emily Nafaa, Mrs. Skeivi and dear brother Moussa Al-Maayta.

It has been a good notice given by Mrs. Emily with regard to signing of Arab countries onto international charters and agreements...etc. However, one would wonder why they have signed them?

Hereby, before this session, I recommend suspension of issuing any laws that would be contradicted to such charters and agreements signed by the government.

On revising the Egyptian Constitution, I noticed that there was an article that would, unfortunately, be contradicted with important articles in such international charters. Case in point, special laws held it legal to have associations. Then we notice that some other laws have banned that right which has been stipulated in the Constitution. I hope you put a recommendation onto that point.

Second, we always wish to have participants such as Mrs. Emily Nafaa, Mrs. Skeivi, or the Mongolian representative for women, as we are in dire need for women to be involved in the different activities of the society.

**** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

I agree with my friend and colleague Mr, Al-Maayta, as globalization seems to be a spontaneous change following information and communications revolution. The world has turned to be just like a tiny village, rather a universal village, However, from a mere scientific point of view, and if compared to other spontaneous changes (transportation of temperature from hot to cold ---, water overflows from heights onto depressions), it is rather a spontaneous change. Dams would then result in having floods. Such spontaneous changes have some positive and negative aspects.

As we belong to developing countries, we should be aware of passive aspects, otherwise we would be drowned in somewhat a flood. Similarly, we either be aware of passive aspects of change or we would face some sort of domination. In brief we may welcome globalization. However, I only can see but domination.

Thanks

Mr. Saad Al-Taweel (Arab Social Forum)

As for the empowerment of women, I have some two important comments.

First: Women suffer from several problems, the same undergone by under-developed peoples... Hence, we must not forget the original struggle to disseminate these problems. The problems, related especially to women, result from backward laws. So, modern thinking is needed to overcome them. Certainly, women must play the main role toward that, though it is, in fact, some sort of joint struggle.

Then we move to the present style of globalization where states give up several services such as education and healthcare...etc. Women are in the van guard of strata mostly hit by that. For instance in case of lack of education, young girl usually do not go to schools. In cases of families in the countryside or low-classes

families, young men are paid attention in the field of education as they are looked at as supporting families. On the other hand young women do not seem to be important. They suffer the most from the dominance of globalization. Besides, women suffer more than others from poverty. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other similar institutions have never paid attention to the people. They want to push more women to the capitalist manipulation where poor labor and farmers are employed. A great number of women are used in non-governmental sectors. The women who support their families represent considerable ratios of societies. These particular ratios are meant to be manipulated. We do not want to fight poverty by means of charity and other backward ideas. We should fight poverty by creating job opportunities for the people and increasing production.

Thank you.

Mr. Nabil Sobhi (Arab Social Forum)

More than a year ago, there was a big strike in Greater Mahala. The labor launched the strike to press for higher wages. Then women working in ready-made clothes departments mobbed and went to men departments where they encouraged them to resume work.

We appreciate the role played by women toward social development and supporting popular associations. Here I would like to ask the lady representing the International Women Federation: What has the International Women Federation done toward some 30-40 satellite channels using women bodies as mere commodities for advertisements round the clock?

Thank you

Ms. Eman Showeter (Bahrain- President of Bahranina Women's Associaltion)

I am going to speak about the empowerment of women in Bahrain. We are just like other Arab countries in this field. We do have some official and civil association concerned with women empowerment.

As for official bodies: we have the Higher Council of Women chaired by the Queen Shiekha Sabila.

On the civil arena, we have the Women Association and other civil associations, though . they have rather limited financial resources, although Bahrain has signed an agreement to disseminate all aspects of discrimination. However, based on some reservations under main articles(articles 2 and 16), there were some flagrant images of discrimination in all fields. Some women have really managed to be in centers of decision making (ministers and judges, in addition to one female representative in the People's Assembly who got it without being contested). Yet actually they all lack professional experience. In fact the government does it only to acquire somewhat good image before the UN and other international organizations.

On talking about women empowerment we must not forget that men do have their important role to play in that field.

7th Session

The Environment and Climate Changes

Chairperson: Amb. A.A.M. Marleen

Dr. Abdel-Moniem Ebied*

"Oh, Ye fellows ... Keep threats away from our planet ... they are threats to our climate environment, and common culture of mankind"**

Preface on Concepts:

Following tackling issues of the southern area throughout our current important conference, one almost concludes with some indicators which tempt us to focus on women's issues first. We believe that women should be treated on equal foot with men in a bright foreseeable future where the women of the south will be in the van guard of the elite.

Yesterday we tackled the position of the southern women at the age of fertility and maternity. In my briefing today, I am going to focus on our big mother, the Earth. Here, unfortunately, we feel worried about her health. We must probe the reasons underlying its pale face, mal-functionality, and ill-mobility of liquids (water and oil) throughout her veins and outside too. The troubled pulses reflect somewhat deformed process of development with excessive consumption and unfair distribution of returns. We, the sons, are worried about her temperature which is getting higher with symptoms of bad temper and bad consequences afflicting both the crust and waters with cyclones and typhoons leading to great losses of mankind and property. We may also refer to pollution, hindered currency of water, polluted air due to arising standards of carbon Vis a Vis oxygen and hydrogen which is

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**** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

considered as the future of clean source of energy needed.

However, it seems that the greatest threat facing our mother, the Earth, is the cultural and informational retardation which results in an enlarged digital gap of knowledge between the north and the south.

Clinical check-up of our mother, the Earth, shows that the southern hemisphere suffers from: 1) Unstable climate , 2) Unhealthy environment, 3) Slow overflow of culture, knowledge, and ethics of work needed to pump concerted efforts so that the people of the south can join the common march of mankind.

This is to inspire hope for having an alternative socialism and new democracy. You have asserted the possibility of having that. So, do not forget that our speech today focuses three main elements namely: climate, environment, and the future of common culture of mankind.

Worldwide Aggravated Climate, Environmental, and Cultural Problems:

What happened to our 2-billion year old planet? A warming climate has been replacing the ice accumulated over some 10 thousand years, the age of the mankind on the Earth.

The Environment Expectations Report issued by the UNDP includes the latest warnings concerning the present state of climate, the earth, water, and biological life. It describes changes all through 1987, with definition of work priorities. The report has been revised by 390 UN experts and 1000 other experts from all over the world.

The report points out that it is somehow relative on dealing with climate and environmental problems; as there are still some "fixed" issues which are rather difficult to tackle. The failure in tackling those fixed problems may wipe out all achievements in this domain, while putting aside some gloomy overviews that could threaten "mankind survival". This necessitates having rapid and continuous work.

Mr. Steiner, Assistant to the U.N. General Secretary and Executive Director of the UN Environment Program, says that reactions have been splendid and inspiring with regard to targets included in a previous report issued by Brundit land Commission some 20 years ago under the title of "The Scientific Commission Report on Environment and Development". It has been entitled as "Our Common Future". On the other hand the report entitled Global Environment Overview 4" or " GEO – 4", though very important, has failed, both in tempo and reaction, to be up to challenges facing people and environment. It has even failed to recognize those challenges namely:

1– Decrease of production of destructive chemicals which affect nearly 95% of Ozone layer, there is also a treaty to reduce the gas emissions.

2 – Establishment of new venues to market carbon.

3 – To support increasing protectorates to cover 12% of the Earth.

1. In his worldwide recognized books: "The River Nile" and "Egypt: Land, Desert, and water", the prominent Egyptian geologist, Prof. Dr. Roshdi Saiid, "Father of the River Nile", has warned that 7 million acres of Egyptian agricultural land, the most fertile land on the Earth, might be disappeared within 50 years if it is not turned to be a natural protectorate. Trying, he himself, to grow the famous Egyptian mangoes and watercress in the US Virginia state soil, he could never get similar flavor or sweet taste.

Dr. Roshdi Saiid indicates that if Egypt, with its poor natural energy resources, if it is to sell out the recently discovered energy resources to Europe and elsewhere, it will lose the capability of becoming an industrial power. This, in other wards, means losing the future. He points out that the Egyptian desert should be home of industry and young disciplined productive population, to save a healthy life for millions of people with no over population (100,000 people/kms) or other problems of urbanization.

He says that underdevelopment with the product going underway to a few businessmen who are fond of excessive consumption, property bidding, running after globalization with weak bourses lacking transparency, and savings drain via foreign banks which replaced the Egyptian banks – all that together with a minute margin of the profit of the ready-made factories would lead to losing opportunities of national industrial schemes.

On the other hand, a concerted agricultural production of grains, vegetables and white and red meat with the National Master Plans would sustain Economic Growth which would, consequently, result in achieving sustainable development, equality and efficiency.

Back to GEO – 4 report, it points out to the importance of formulating international climate agreements to cover bio-diversity, modified genes, anti-desertification, nuclear waste. One would also point out to over-populate random areas, where to find the poor masses while the rich people run away to their besieged resorts with private playgrounds, education, medical care, and security guards.

These are all chronicle problems which are added to those of rapid increase of the 'dead areas' (void of oxygen) in oceans, re-emergence of new and old diseases related to environment, and lack of finance at the UN Environment Program to face main reasons behind environment deterioration.

Developing, or rather Low income and Low – Middle income countries, need $25 to $75 billion as an annual aid to face AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and high rates of natal or newly borne and under-5 deaths. Such countries also need to have fair and sustained health care networks that should be financed through special funds to ensure health care insurance for the unemployed or undisciplined labor force. All that has been included in the Eight Millennium Goals report.

A New Agreement to Replace Kyoto Protocol:

Kyoto Protocol has looked forward to committing countries to decrease gas emissions in industrialized countries with no such commitments in developing countries. The GEO – 4 report has also warned that we consumed much more than available resources as our environmental needs represented nearly 21, 9 hectare per capita, while the average of the Earth's bio-capability is 15, 7 hectares/capita. Billions of people in the low-income countries are vulnerable to lack of welfare as a result of failure in tackling relatively simple problems that could be tackled successfully in other places.

In Egypt, due to slow paced development, nearly 17 million people live in randomly-built areas that lack enough resources, clean water, hygiene drainage, electricity, and other basic services. Children and women of the poor people living in random areas, around big cities, now wander through streets to look for work opportunities. Many of them suffer from poverty, violence, lack of hygiene services and healthy food. Some poor Egyptian women stick to growing birds at home as expensive eggs, drum stick, and burger sandwiches are not affordable. Instead, man competes with animals to get beans, lentil, rice, and macaroni whose prices are getting higher and higher. Farmers in the US Aiwa state are on their way to turn the high productivity corn (thanks to Egyptian fertilizers) into the Ethanol fuel in stead of sending it to the poor in the third world countries. Brazil forests which protect the Ozone layer are feared to disappear.

Despite harmful climate changes which threaten the Nile and Bengali deltas, challenges facing the world are not geographically separated. The Netherlands, with its culture, democracy, and religious tolerance, could be drowned. Environmental problems are actually related to other problems of development, fuel, and food. They all contribute to aggravating the climate change problem, agricultural land erosion, and excessive consumption by

the rich vis a vis unbearable despair by the poor people.

As I love my home country, Egypt, I dare say that it is high time for a new revolution in the field of education. The educational system should be based on knowledge and preservation of Arab calligraphy, poetry, and literature. Translation and commanding a foreign language could pave the way for getting in touch with horizons of knowledge and scientific progress which has recently allowed turning a mature dermal cell into a stem cell without probing religious controversies. This means that, hopefully, we may have biological factories toward the end of the current century. Average man's age may rise to 150 years with having some human spare parts.

In other wards, having serious educational system and cultural change, with no conflict between religion and politics, will help Egypt solve the environment problems in cities, villages, and desert. Egypt could also have energy out of winds, solar system, and clean atomic energy while preserving an ever bright cultural product of inter-marriage between the Pharaohs and modernized Arabs.

However, what actually happens now in Egypt and some other countries is simply, as mentioned in the GEO – 4 report, some 6 threats namely:

1 – Losing fertile land and deterioration of lands,

2 – Shrinkage of clean water resources shared by mankind and other creatures. Here we invite our visitors to drink the Nile water to come back to Egypt afterwards.

3- Decline of fish asset worldwide.

4- Unbearable pressure on resources.

5- Surpassing the point of no-return with regard to environment destruction.

6- Cultural destruction; as Egypt, with all Roman, Arab, and Mediterranean heritage may turn to be the land where one can see poor thinking and some religious misinterpretations with

regard to women and children.

Perils Threatening Development in the South

Certain Perils Facing the Mankind and Attempts of Development in the South and the New Development Countries Namely:

1) Water Threats: irrigation water represents 70% of the whole water available, which holds as impossible to achieve the millennium goal of doubling food production by 2050. Water usage is expected to increase by 50% in developing countries and 18% in the developed world. Increasing burdens are expected to be unbearable in areas of water scarcity. Besides, the quality of water is expected to deterioration as a result of pollution of human and industrial wastes as well as microbes. This will, inevitably, lead to more diseases and deaths among the people.

2) Perils onto Fishes: Fish consumption has been more than tripled during the period between 1961 – 2001. Meanwhile, caught fish quantities have shrunk since the 80s of the last century. Excessive force of fishing has been used to catch nearly 250%, more than needed for sustained fish production.

3) Perils onto Bio-diversity: They are the most rapid along the history of mankind. Some species are on their way toward extinction by almost 100 times faster than that of fossils registrations. Also meat trade surpassed by 6 times the rates of sustainability. 3% of amphibians, 23% of mammals, and 12% of birds especially in woods, jungles, and great rivers in Brazil and Africa are prone to extinction. The US ships have introduced jellyfishes to the ecological system of the Dead sea in 1982, which has lead to destruction of 28 commercial fisheries by 1992. A wide scale of animal extinction seems to be imminent with highly increasing rates of food consumption and condensed vertical agriculture using chemicals, energy, water and efficient grain species. Also vast areas of deserts are now used successfully as agrarian lands using subterranean water. However, that desert

land could be 'home' for some eco-friendly "secondary industries" and popular clean areas with the basic necessities of water and energy.

Here arises the importance of Roshdi Saiid project to build up industrial cities in desert lands and turn the agrarian lands into natural protectorates in stead of having cemented woods or highly profitable factories. Thus we need some southern policies for protected agrarian areas. Besides, we need to preserve woods and efficiently administrate them according to a Southern Charter and away from Bretton Woods usurious loans and payment of debts. We need to avert threats of US economy

We, in this conference, congratulate Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Vietnam, and China as they averted loans and managed to pay out their debts to international organizations. We must stick to technical cooperation and avert the threats of US economy. We need not receive loans from the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank with accompanying burdens of paying out loans and their interests. Noteworthy that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are no longer able to tempt poor countries to take loans and more loans to pay out the first loans with their interests. We should continue sticking to education and health care programs based on democratic and social solidarity bases.

On the other hand we look respectfully to China while warning it from the US debts. If these debts surpass $ 1 trillion, the Chinese industries will face a hurdle in case the US economy undergoes great recession.

The application of bio-diversity program and Genome map has become essential for the southern alliance in 3 continents together with alliances in the West, with the aim of preserving not only Banda's, tigers, and elephants, for tourist or decoration purposes, but also all species. One may also think of mating to restore some almost extinct species (mating between Australian Lama and

Arabian Camel to have the so called "Cama Lama").

4) Regional Pressures:

In the GEO – 4 report, the 7 regions underlined probable influences of climate changes.

1-In Africa, desertification and land deterioration act as menaces leading to shrinking of the per capita share of food by 12% since 1981. In Egypt, a great progress in providing the people with clean water has been achieved due to the High Dam, despite threats of foreign parties intervention at the Nile sources and the horn of Africa area.

2- Continuation of unfair support for growing grains to produce fuel to be used in luxurious cars. Besides seeds undergo sterilization to be the Israeli seeds that can be grown only once under the pretext of guarding intellectual property rights; not to mention stealing vegetarian species and underground water.

3- In highly condensed areas in Asia Pacific and Egyptian cities and villages, we find the problems of clean air, increasing demand on clean water, deterioration of eco-systems, increasing wastes, and the bad use of agricultural land.

Additionally, the US and Europe make inclinations to pollution in China as probable obstacle to have the Olympics in Chinese capital which could compete, on equal foot, with the west and even achieve victory.

4-Transportation and illegal trade of electronics and dangerous wastes together with unsustainable and irrational increasing consumption in developed countries where energy is used excessively (air-conditioned buildings and luxurious cars).

5-South America and the Caribbean area face cultural growth, and meanwhile, threats onto bio-diversity, coast erosion, marine pollution as well as climate change effects. Protectorates cover nearly 12% of the land, while rates of deforestation in Amazon area are decreasing.

5-North America struggles against consequences of climate

change which resulted from excessive use of energy; with cries to make small and family cars as well as electronic products that use small quantities of fuel. In West Asia, we find increasing demand of clean water, ecological deterioration and threats onto peace and security.

6-Water infections and international conflicts on water resources.

7-Polar areas are prone to ice melting, while indigenous people lack food security and increasing bio-pollutants. Restoring the Ozone layer would take around 5 decades.

5) The Atmosphere:

It is uncontroversial that mankind activities have resulting in climate change. Worldwide temperature average has gone high by nearly 0,974 Celsius degrees, as the average temperature was 2 degrees during the pre-industrialization period.

Analysis of cylindrical ice samples from New Zealand showed some unprecedented high levels of Carbon dioxide and Methane if compared with those along nearly 500,000 past years. Besides, Northern Pole area's temperature goes high by almost 2 times as that worldwide. Acidity of water increases. Sea levels will continue to go higher along the near future with ice melting. 60% of the world populations live along a coastal strip nearly 100 km long. Malaria and diarrhea are expected to spread. Aviation has increased by 80% along the period 1990 – 2002, while sea freight cargo weight went up from 4 billion tones in 1990 to 1, 7 billion tones in 2005 with increasing demand of energy.

Some gases may stay in the atmosphere for 50.000 years. Despite gradual elimination of Ozone by exhausted materials, the Ozone hole in the stratosphere layer over the northern Pole is now greater then ever, which allows the harmful ultra-violet sun ray to reach the Earth. Besides, Acidity rains represent a challenge in Mexico, India, and China; though less dangerous in Europe and North America.

6) Knowledge and Cultural Desertification and Perils onto Health Care:

These are all related to poverty, crime, drugs, over-population, lack of education, AIDS spreading out in Southern Africa; with all related challenges, and humane as well as materialistic challenges. Noteworthy that AIDS has been transferred to Africa via the US after coming out from Haiti. Also Hepatitis has spread out in Egypt and other places after Bilharzias had been endemic in closed-in villages. That is rather similar to AIDS spreading out in Washington in December 2007 (The negroes in their closed in cantons represent 50% of those afflicted).

Southern Bandung appeals to and directs the North:

Toward the end of this event, we look forward to Cairo Environmental Declaration and a democratic social program concluded by an alliance of all parties, especially Bandung peoples, willing to defend environment, climate, and culture issues. GEO-4 report points to a public priority based on a political leadership, collective response and ratification of Kyoto Agreement which is not yet ratified by some of high pollutant powers; so that we may avoid a great catastrophe.

We all, here in Cairo, underline the need to conclude a development program to be concluded by Bandung countries together with Latin America countries. Such development should be based on self-independence, collective work, and technology. The beginning should be sooner rather than later.

Fixation of some chronicle problems may be too difficult, because it requires tackling the main reasons which affect interests of some main political powers. However, development should not be accompanied by harmful effect on the environment, so that we can transfer our economic entities onto our children. It requires the effort of not only leaders, but also peoples and those with direct interests; as sustainable work is urgently needed now. We need to start now working together via Cairo Declaration to

ensure survival and surpassing challenges.

We need to hold an annual meeting to follow-up implementation of principal ideas of Cairo Historical Meeting.

Thank you for being here together and go on moving toward a better future.

Contribution onto Axis VII

Dr. Helmi El-Hadidi (Egyptian Solidarity Committee)

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Dr. Abdel Moniem Ebeid has actually presented an encyclopedia, rather than a paper or an article. He has dealt with almost all world countries and reviewed all aspects of environmental pollution. I wish he would have concentrated his talk on one or two points so that optimal benefit could be attained. He tackled, briefly, several issues including: stem cells, bio-diversity, violations onto the Earth, and abuse of energy. These are all big headlines rather than just mere words.

Here, I would underline the fact that **environmental pollution** is dependant on mankind existence. However, human beings also suffer from such pollution. This is well related to peoples' culture. Violation onto agrarian land in Egypt, for example, is closely related to over population and poverty that should be tackled first to avoid land abuse.

He has also talked about **deserts**. He seems to be keen on having deserts. Yet, I would like to pinpoint a fact. In Egypt we live on only 5% of our territories. Around 95% of the territory is but mere desert. We can not leave that land unused to uphold such romantic thinking adopted by Dr. Abdel Moneim Ebied. We need

- Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.

to move away from the valley to have the deserts cultivated, populated, and optimally used. Otherwise, we could face a very bad fate. In the past only 20 million people lived on the earth. Around 75 millions are now living on the same Earth. So, can we ask them to keep away from deserts?... The answer is "No".

The third point he mentioned about genes and stem cells. Based on my studies and readings, it seems to me as a two-faceted coin. The issue does have a good facet while the bad one is severe and difficult as it opens the door for some genetic modification which means having the risk of racial annihilation, in addition to the so called Hitler ideas. Hence we are quite pro scientific research under surveillance, so as not to have abuse, inhumane or illegal usage. We do not want to violate norms, religions, and principles, and finally have some kind of people leading the world the way would like.

Last point is: should we have the door fully open? Should we put some limits, surveillance, and red lines? I think that we must have red lines with regard all research concerned with man, his future, or food.

Engineer. Saad Al-Taweel

Environment is actually a very important issue. Dr. Abdel Moneim has tackled that issue throughout his additional talk. I believe this issue, in fact, needs some comprehensive studies. However, I thank him for dealing with almost all hurdles. On dealing with the utilization of deserts and Dr. Roshdi Saiid's project, he has not referred to cultivating the desert land. This seems to be rather impossible due to the lack of water resources... either the Nile or underground water, not to mention huge funds needed.

We do have a case in point. It is Toshka project which has so far cost $ 7 billion as water resources and other elements are not available. Dr. Roshdi, rather, considered the desert as good

extension for industry where we need 20% of water resources. Only 20% could be used domestically. So, 70% of water resources could be saved for cultivation.

Some 10 years ago the late writer Mohamed Sayed Ahmed suggested we should try to use solar energy for sea water desalination, which would then allow expanding the cultivable land. Unfortunately, at first president Hosni Mubarak seemed to be interested in the suggestion. He asked the researcher to present a paper in this concern. Yet afterwards, it all went into oblivion as usual. The idea did need prolonged research in coordination with different well developed bodies. However, unforturnately, scientific research in Egypt is neither paid attention nor it well provided financially.

As to environment; pollution results mainly from big industries in big countries where, in addition to that, huge numbers of cars produce fumes resulting in more and more pollution. So, Egypt could not be considered as a major pollutant in this field. However, Egypt must look for other means to contribute to dissemination of pollution.

We must not erode our considerably little oil and natural gas reserves. The Egyptian natural gas is exported for almost valueless money. I am afraid we may find no reserves after 10 -15 or mostly 20 years.

Another important topic aroused by university professors and discussed in production councils: Egypt's oil reserves are nearly 17 billion tones with oil clay thermal energy of nearly 10 – 15%. It is found at the phosphate fields, like Abu-Tartour, and can be used directly. Besides, oil clay can be burnt to generate electricity. The same happens in the USA and Israel. The USA especially is well developed in that concern. Some 10 years ago I have suggested making use of our limited water resources and giving up the old-fashion means of irrigation for using the modern means such as spraying and specking. This could save 30 – 40% of

irrigation water. That would then allow expansion of agricultural land, direly needed with a view to fast-paced over population. Fortunately, the Egyptian Ministry of Irrigation has recently allowed the use of that technique which could be adopted gradually with no high expenses. This would allow more land reclamation in addition to water recycling to irrigate new agricultural land.

I have recently read that the Ministry of irrigation has quietly adopted that technique. It is rather expensive. So, the farmers and land owners would have to pay more. Some would, undoubtedly, complain. But this is inevitable. Owners should bear the cost of turning to modern techniques of irrigation that need less water and allow agrarian land expansion in different places.

Sayed Abdul-Rasul (Egyptian Solidarity Committee)
Thank you Mr. President,

I am going to talk as briefly as I can. I would like to tackle two important points of discussion. They are both related to the environment; namely energy and water. Actually, they are two facets of the same coin.

The developed countries have managed to hold the developing countries pay for the environment pollution. Now we call upon industrial countries to pay for the pollution resulting from their industries.

Second; as developing countries, we neglect some useful resources that could be available if we preserve the environment. We must keep away from the problem of fuel, as a big number of developing countries are not oil producing countries. Fortunately we have the solar and winds energies. Noteworthy that most of developing countries are located in the southern hemisphere of the earth where sun rays are available for a long time.

Organizational Session

Chairperson: Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak

This is to clarify what is meant by the organizational session which will be convened on the third day of the conference (28/2/2008).

It will be convened according to the constitution of AAPSO regarding the demise of Dr. Morad Ghaleb- the President of AAPSO.

As Article 8 of "the Permanent Secretariat" item 6 stated that:

a) In the absence of the President for any reason, the Secretary General takes over his function.

Accordingly Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain , the Secretary-General was unanimously accepted by the Permanent Secretariat as acting President and takes over the function of the President

b) The Congress authorizes and empowers the Presidium to meet in an emergency situation and to elect the President and/or the Secretary General in case of resignation, incapacitation or demise of either or both of them.

The proposed organizational session will be the emergency meeting for the

Presidium to elect the President.

c) Until the election takes place, the President or Secretary

General takes over the functions of the vacant post.

The Permanent Secretariat is mandated by the Congress to convene such an emergency meeting of the Presidium within a period not exceeding three months from the date of such eventuality /eventualities.

Article 6 of the "Presidium"- item 1 stated that:

1. The Presidium is a highly representative coordinating organ of AAPSO. The Presidium shall be composed of the President, the Secretary General, the Vice-Presidents of AAPSO, members of the Permanent Secretariat and heads of all national Solidarity Committees or their representatives.

Prominent leaders and outstanding personalities of the movement may be included in the Presidium, by the Congress, with the consent of their national committees.

Due to the absence of the Presidium members as a result of the demise , old age, disability or the inaction of some committees, the Permanent Secretariat proposes to the organizational meeting held to approve the present existing number for the reasons entirely beyond its control, which suffered in recent years.

On Article 5- item 8 it is mentioned that:

* Only the Congress shall have the right to elect the President of the AAPSO from the prominent personalities of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement, on the nomination of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the country of the Headquarters of the AAPSO. As the Headquarter of AAPSO is in Cairo, A.R.E. , the Egyptian Committee has the right to nominate the President of AAPSO.

Hence, the Egyptian Solidarity Committee has nominated its President Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch to be the new President of AAPSO. It is the only nomination proposed for the Presidium

Meeting.

The Secretariat considers the importance of convening the Congress within a period of one and a half years.

So it is done so, the second resolution or decision I want to approve as you heard during the celebration that All Indian Peace and Solidarity Organisation AIPSO had thankfully proposed the convening of the 8th AAPSO congress in India within a period around one and half years. We accept with thanks the proposal of AIPSO.

Dear friends

I think now with the election of the new president I have to say that I had the honor to work with old leaders of AAPSO since I came to secretariat; I worked with Youssef El-Sebaay, Abdul Rahman El Sharqawy, with Mourad Ghaleb and now with Ahmed Hamrouch. I have to admit that all the Egyptian presidents they worked in the spirit of cooperation with the issue and with the dedication of purpose and of spirit not only with the members of secretariat but with the entire movement and that is why we appreciate the Egyptian leadership to the Afro-Asian movement since its establishment in 1958.

And I am sure that Mr. Hamrouch who is not new to our movement for more than a quarter of a century as the president of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee and he knows about our movement so we will not go in discontinuity on contrary but in continuity, while I congratulate him from my heart I also have sympathy to challenges he will meet to regenerate AAPSO in this difficult situations particularly on the African front. He has to prepare himself for a hard task to confront him. So once again I congratulate him and I wish him great success in his new responsible job in leading the Afro-Asian movement. Similarly I would like while thanking the Indian AAPSO for hosting the congress to say that a period from now to the congress it is a short period, it is a period of continuous challenge to AAPSO,

challenges that have brought out during the discussions we had in the past two and half days; what are the problems, what are the short comings, what are the priorities, what are the new orientations, what are the new strategies. One final thing I will say neither the congress nor the activities will put AAPSO in one lead if the national committees will not implement their obligations this is a law. AAPSO is not the secretariat AAPSO is the whole movement, the secretariat is the coordinating and executive body that's all, the secretariat cannot take place the national committee, the national committee doesn't do what are their obligations to their people to their movements to their parties. Then it is difficult to implement that secretariats can work in each country. This is illogical so my final appeal is that I add if we are concern of the future of AAPSO we should be at high responsibilities by implementing the decision of the proposal and by activising the national committees so that the whole AAPSO can be moved and activise and now I give the floor to Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch.

Thank you very much

Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch
Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I wish to thank my brother and friend Nouri Abdul Razzak, the Secretary General of AAPSO, for numerous reasons; for the leverage he offered the Organization in the past years together with other leaderships within the Organization, for his everlasting keenness on developing and upgrading AAPSO in order to perform its role in terms of national freedom movements and popular solidarity and for his nice words with which he introduced me and with which I started to feel the magnitude of my upcoming responsibility in this Organization, In which I shall work closely with all its staff and leaders, on top of course is Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak. I am looking forward to co-operate with all of you, irrespective of your nationalities or institutions, in order to push AAPSO forward in this stage where we encounter foreign interferences, military conflicts and environmental hazards. In brief, I want to thank all of you and I promise that I shall always be at the service of AAPSO. Many thanks indeed.

Engineer Mosa El Ma'ytah

On behalf of the Jordanian Committee for Peace and Solidarity, I wish to congratulate Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch and wish him success as we trust his potentials. I wish also to thank Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak for the significant effort he exerted in the past stage and for the preparation of this conference. We indeed cherish Mr. Hamrouch and his reconsideration of the scope of work of this Organization. AAPSO in the past struggled against militarism and colonization, but today the Organization faces other threats; namely this imperialistic product known as globalization, the need for real solidarity among our nations with regard to democracy, poverty and unemployment and the need for a new form of popular consolidation. We congratulate Mr. Hamrouch and wish him success. Thank you.

Mr. Merghany Mosa'ed (Sudan)

On behalf of the Sudanese Solidarity Committee, I want to congratulate Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch for the new post, wishing him the best of luck. The Sudanese Committees lives in exile, and the Egyptian Solidarity Committee was always our refuge. It is no longer a secret that civil wars and peace agreements are playing into Sudanese affairs. I am looking forward to AAPSO to work on enlivening democratic systems and Arab security. I wish also to extend my tribute to Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak, the Secretary General of AAPSO, all the staff who worked for the success of this conference and for those who came from abroad. Thank you.

Mr. Ali Lotf Al Thowr (Yemen)

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulation to Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch and the Organization, and I must point out that in Yemen, and for nearly 25 years, we were always keen on meeting and discussing Arab issues at the level of Arab Solidarity Committees or at the level of be Egyptian and Yemeni Committees. I am confident in the success of my brother Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch in this hard task, yet we should not leave him alone in the field, we need to bolster AAPSO. I wish also to pay tribute to late Dr. Morad Ghaleb and thank my relentless brother Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak whom we knew for 30 years. My best wishes for my two brothers and for the Organization. Thank you.

Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim (Iraq)

First I wish to thank the Secretariat of AAPSO, the Organization and the whole staff for organizing and convening of this major and tiresome conference. Second I wish to ascertain that AAPSO means a lot to us in Iraq; Iraqis know well about the Organization since the 1950s. We were just informed by the Iraqi Council of Peace and Solidarity in Basra that the Council celebrated the golden jubilee of AAPSO. Third I want to extend a heartfelt

congratulation to Mr. Ahmad Hamroush who is known to all of us and who is much honored by Iraqis. I wish him all the best of luck and sound health. Thank you.

Dr. Abdulatif Omran (Syria)

On behalf of the Syrian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, I wish to extend my tribute to AAPSO Secretariat for this successful conference and the preparation of this wonderful closing session. As we appreciate and commend the bright history of this Organization, we really hope that it would realize greater success and progress. I stress and second the nomination of the Egyptian Committee for the important role Egypt plays at regional and international levels. We are looking forward to a presidency under Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch who is known for his effective co-operation, objectivity, insight and interest in the consistency of the work of AAPSO and the success of all Arab Solidarity Committees. Once again, I second the nomination and wish everybody luck. Thank you.

Mr. Abdul Jalil Al Noemi (Bahrain)

After leaving his post as an editor-in-chief of "Roz Al Yusuf" magazine, Mr. Hamrouch toured a number of Gulf States, and he would delightfully recalls being received warmly in Bahrain. As he became the Chairman of this Organization, Bahrainis want to reassure him that their love to him and to AAPSO has doubled for the good reputation the Organization enjoys in the region. I wish to thank Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak for his diligence and effort to voice the message of AAPSO to the world. The Gulf is in a dire need of highlighting the building up of military presence on its soil, whether through the militarization of Gulf States or through the installation of military basis, the fact that poses an everlasting threat to global peace and security, and the significance of the Gulf region must be taken into consideration due to its abundant wealth. We shall always support AAPSO. Thank you.

Dr. Helmi Al Hadidy (Egypt)

Ladies and Gentlemen

Though I was not asked to do so, I feel that I am obliged to voice the opinion of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee. First, I wish to thank you for seconding the Egyptian nomination, and we are indebted. Rest assured your nomination is in the right place and your encouragement is worthwhile. I wish also to thank Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak on behalf of the Egyptian Committee and the Organizers of this conference who managed successfully to gather such an enormous get-together. I wish to congratulate Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch and sympathize with him because he undertakes a strenuous task. You all talked about the hardships of solidarity in the aftermath of the collapse of former Soviet Union, and you also talked about the need to breathe life back again into AAPSO, and this indeed throws a huge burden on the shoulders of the elected Chairman of this Organization, the General Secretariat and on all of us, but we shall not leave him alone in the field, as the Jews did with Prophet Moses when they told him to go to fight alone. We shall fruitfully co-operate with him and with the Secretariat in order to revive the idea of solidarity which we are in a dire need of in a time when we strive against aggressive powers and face huge problems. I believe we need to join ranks and tell the world that we stand with impoverished nations, with developing and third world countries who believe in the principles of Bandung. We are in a dire need of a new Bandung conference which could revive those memories and sublime principles. Again I wish to extend my appreciation on behalf of the Egyptian Committee to you and to Mr. Hamrouch, to whom I wish, together with the Secretariat, all the success. Thank you.

Emily Naffa'a (Jordan)

At the closing of this important conference, I am pleased to thank and greet everyone for this achievement, and on behalf of

the Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee I wish to extend tribute to Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak who managed to prepare for the conference successfully. Also on behalf of the Committee I wish to welcome the election of Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch, whose name is connected to late President Gamal Abdulnaser in the minds of Jordanians. We wish the Organization success and progress in the phase ahead in order to face the enormous challenges. AAPSO has always provided support for causes of liberation, especially the Palestinian Cause, and currently the Iraqi struggle against American occupation, the Lebanese against conspiracies and Syrians against imperialistic machinations. We hope the spirit of Bandung would be instilled in our Organization, and we are quite sure that Mr. Ahmad Hamrouch will enjoy our trust and support in this critical juncture. Thank you.

India (AIPSO)

Comrade, the new president I think that you have taken the charge in a very historical moment in our movement. All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation promise to extend all our cooperation with you at least to take some burden from your work to continue the activities of our Afro-Asian Solidarity movement and I also thank every body who have agreed to have the next congress in India. And to be honest it is not a very comfortable decision for us. If you remember and I have with me this document, the seventh congress was also held in India but then 8th congress will be also held in India but practically we discuss this issue and we want to see that AAPSO should be one of the prominent solidarity movements in our region. While I said so I will request Arabs and other secretariat members and I will request all other organisations considering the present state of AAPSO and to be honest Africa is missing excluding the Arab Republic of Egypt. I do believe if we are having a successful conference which all we looking for in India then I propose to African countries to be

present here to form something of preparatory committee. I think that not only to keep the permanent secretariat. I think that we should find a proper agenda, and a concept of new AAPSO to continue its global activities.

Thank you very much

Mongolian Association for Peace and Solidarity :

Dear friends, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the excellent organisation of this conference. I would like to thank Egyptian national solidarity organisation. And I would like on behalf of my delegation express my sincere gratitude to Nouri Abdul Razzak who is working the success of this organisation. He used to be in Mongolia and been received by the President of Mongolia. I promise that I will send to you very memorable photo when you were received by the President of Mongolia. I would like now to congratulate Mr. Hamrouch on the nomination to be president of our movement. Also I would like to present something special for keep "portrait of Jenkis Khan" that Mr. Hamrouch will be our Jenkis Khan of our movement.

Mr. Marleen (Sri Lanka):

Let me express my warm felicitations to our respected Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch about his nomination as the president of AAPSO. I know that the elections at the next congress proposed to be held in India. Mr. Hamrouch is a man with a smile, I had never seen him without a smile and I hope you will lead the organization also with a smile. This is not to say that Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak doesn't smile, he does smiles well and makes all of us happy, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Nouri Abdul Razzak for having guided the destinies of this organisation for such a long time. Although AAPSO was in a low profile for some years he kept the organisation and activities moving for having

contributed to a great extend to keep this organisation very active and live.

Vietnamese Solidarity Committee:

Thank you very much. First of all, I'd like to and on behalf of the Vietnamese Solidarity Committee and on behalf of madam Binh who is also Vice President of AAPSO to warmly congratulate Mr. Hamrouch for the election to his position as a president of AAPSO and wish him success to a new important position that lead our movement to process of revitalisation and in the coming period. I would like also to express our appreciation to the All Indian Peace and Solidarity Organisation for its readiness to hold the next congress and we think that this decision is very important for all of us since it is a chance to recognize ourselves and reactivise the work of AAPSO in time that demands all our efforts. With full understanding of what has been achieved by permanent secretariat by previous people that lead to certain difficulties in the past period that lead AAPSO today to not be in a normal situation. So that we think that the congress is important to be organized. Asia had presumed in sufficient time today another to do the major effort including the mobilization of African and Asian members to the congress to design the political program of activities to see where to revise constitution to be fit in new circumstances of our organisation and activities and then to run the congress. I'd like to express our support to that proposal I'd like to request Mr. Hamrouch and also Mr. Nouri to take into consideration. Once again I'd like to thank the organizers of permanent secretariat for successful holding of this conference.

Thank you very much

Nepal AAPSO:

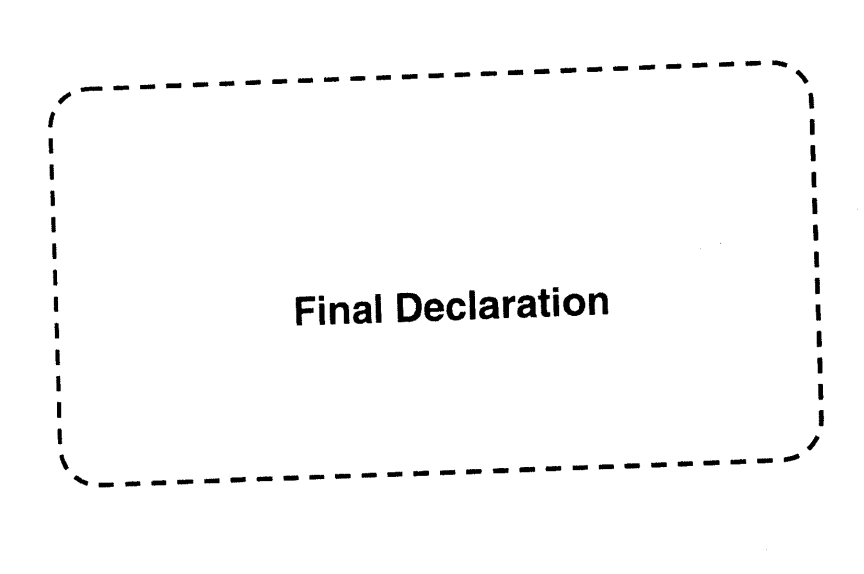
Dear friends, the Egyptian Solidarity Committee has nominated

its president Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch to be new president of AAPSO. It is a matter of great happiness for Nepal AAPSO feels pleasure to welcome him and congratulate him as a new president of AAPSO. As you know that leadership plays an important role to run organisation anywhere, the success of an organisation depends upon the effective role of the president of organisation. We hope the new president will meet this talents and you know that to run organisation like AAPSO which had a past international network in activities like team spirit and coordination among the different national committees of Asia, Africa and Latin America. We hope the new leadership almost on behalf of Nepal AAPSO we assure you that we are always extend cooperation, to the solution and the congress proposal to run the organisation, once again on behalf of Nepal AAPSO I wish you all the success and also very good health.

Thank you very much

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak

I wish to thank you for the nice words, and I want to brief you on the proposal of brother Pallab Sen Gupta, the Secretary General of the All Indian Peace and Solidarity Organization, to form a Preparatory Committee for the Congress from members representing India, AAPSO Permanent Secretariat, Vietnam, Russia, Japan, Egypt and others. We shall hold discussions with the committees willing to participate and develop with the Indian Committee a mechanism for the Preparatory Committee.



Final Declaration

Final Declaration

The International Conference on the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (1/1/1958) was held in Cairo under the title "AAPSO in a Globalized Interdependent World". Representatives of Asian, African and Arab national solidarity organizations participated in the conference, in addition to representatives of associate European solidarity committees. Also participating in the conference were representatives of international, regional and national organizations that played roles in the history of peoples like the World Peace council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Democratic Youth, OSPAAAL of Spain , Chinese Peoples Association for Peace and Disarmament, Coalition of Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (India), and Arab Labor Organization.

Participating in the opening session were representatives of His Excellency the Egyptian Foreign Minister, His Excellency the Secretary General of the Arab League and members of the diplomatic corps from Asia, Russian, Arab and from Latin America and Egyptian public figures.

The conference agenda included important issues of interest to

- Translated by: Mrs. Rossette Francsis.

the people of the world especially the people of the South such as the neo-liberal globalization policies, the growing role of regional groupings, hotbeds of tension and escalation of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, disarmament, empowerment of women and human rights, and environmental and climate changes.

The conference was dedicated to Dr. Mourad Ghaleb, late AAPSO President who passed away on 18 December 2007, in homage to his role and rich history at the helm of AAPSO and in consolidating its role for two decades, which were among the hardest times AAPSO and the people of the South had ever seen. The conference observed a minute silence in homage to Dr. Mourad Ghaleb and in honour of the galaxy of militants who took part in the founding of AAPSO and in the charting of its glorious history.

Messages of greetings were sent by the following personalities:

His Excellency President Bacher el-Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan.

His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka

His Excellency Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Hu Louli, Head of the Chinese Peoples' Association for Peace and Disarmament.

Third National Conference of the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (India) held in Nagpur (1-2, February, 2008).

Ms. Gisele Rabesahala, Head of Madagascar Solidarity Committee.

Mr. Othman Benani, Former Member of AAPSO Permanent Secretariat (Morocco, and personal representative of Mehdi Ben Baraka, 1963-1981)

Mr. Roland Herbert, former member of the Permanent

Secretariat (GDR).

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization was established as a people's movements to carry forward the spirit of Bandung Conference held in Indonesia in 1955.

When the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) was established, AAPSO strongly supported it as an extension to Bandung policies. AAPSO is the only member that has observer status at the NAM from its inception. AAPSO has consultative status at the UN ECOSOC, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO and observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

During the past fifty years, AAPSO has been waging glorious struggles to achieve the objectives for which it was set up, namely the resistance to imperialism, racism and Zionism in support of the peoples' struggles in general and the African and Asian peoples' struggle in particular, for independence, economic, social and cultural development.

In support of this struggle, AAPSO held major international symposia and conferences on national issues and to rally support for peoples struggles as well as for economic issues, especially development, and on foreign military bases, peace and disarmament- especially nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction-, in addition to issues relating to women and social development; non-alignment, human rights and racial discrimination; forced and illegal migration; refugees, a new information world order and the role of the media as well as on clash of civilizations or dialogue of cultures; the end of history, globalization and world polarity.

AAPSO played a major instrumental role in the establishment of grassroots African and Asian organizations for youth, women, jurists and writers.

The papers of all these meetings were published in more than two hundred books that now constitute a library documenting the history of the national liberation movements in African, Asian and

Arab countries and the role of AAPSO in this crucial period in the history of the people of the South.

The Conference also included discussions of in-depth research papers presented by the participants to show the difference between the present and the past. Much of what was achieved in the past is crumbling down. The liberation achieved by the nationalist movement, backed by the world national and socialist movement, is eroding. The peoples who strove to achieve economic independence and independent development are now coming under strong pressure to yield to the conditionalities of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, only to fall in the abyss of restructuring, privatization, indebtedness, shrinking incomes and sometimes inability to serve these debts. Meanwhile the role of the state has been practically weakened in the fields of education and health and the state has abandoned the poor and their protection from the scourge of rising prices.

This is followed by the fall of the socialist camp, the end of the bi-polar world, the unipolar hegemony namely the US pole which dreams of establishing an American empire driving and dominating the world - while nation states are greatly regressing and many of them are deteriorating and falling prey to dependence once again.

Then came 9/11 to give the US a pretext to carry out its schemes to dominate the sources of oil by arms. It launched wars on Afghanistan and on Iraq and is occupying both countries under the pretext of combating terrorism and imposing democracy. It is declaring a relentless war against Democratic Korea, Syria, Iran and Sudan as terrorist undemocratic states to pave the way for more invasions. Meanwhile real terrorism is escalating, in addition to the terrorism practiced by groups, organizations and states, led by the US and Israel, which are pursuing state intimidation policies in all their forms including killing civilians, assassinating resistance nationalist leaders, abduction, imprisonment and torture as in the

cases of the Abu-Ghreib and Guantanamo.

The US is reformulating the Middle East according to its own interests and Israel's interests by working for the implementation of fragmentation schemes and turning the region's states into statelets on religious, sectarian and racist grounds. Such statelets can only yield to imperialism and Zionist, and to their hegemony. For this end, it is spreading anarchy, which is spreading chaos in society and forcing its political institutions to collapse. After that it reformulates them its own way and recreates them in a manner that serves it, even if all this were to lead to complete disregard of people's needs and dignity.

The US and Israel are primarily resorting to creating hotbeds of tension that will continue to flare up, as in the cases of Democratic Korea and Iran and of Kosovo at present. The situation is further aggravated by Bush's statement paving more eruption of the third world, and driving the world to frantic armament. Meanwhile billions of dollars are finding their way to the owners of weapons factories while millions of people are starving and dying.

Meanwhile, the North-South gap is widening. The North is dominating international economic and political positions and running them for its own interests in the name of international legitimacy while the US itself violates any legitimacy that runs counter to its interests, The ferocious neo-liberalism is trying by its set of values to fix the world according to its fierce capitalist interests in the name of the end of history under the assumption that the world has reached the end of the stages of its development and will remain at this point until the end of time. In this respect, the end of history is a stop in history, or rather a stopping of history at the capitalist stage. Through its trans-nationals it is draining whatever remains of the wealth of the world, especially of the south. The north is abusing the south and then is holding it responsibility for the causes and results of this abuse; while the neo liberalism is systematically creating

fabricated clashes between religions and cultures thus breeding animosity, hatred and fear.

In addition, the environmental dangers arising from irresponsible use of technology aim at securing maximum profit without the least consideration to environmental pollution and are wasting materials necessary for human existence and its continuity. The dramatic changes in nature like cyclones, the disappearance of islands or parts of them, the violent earth quakes, epidemics- like aids- , drought, desertification, sweeping floods and famines are only few forms of playing havoc with nature and the environment.

The south is also suffering from drug trafficking, prostitution and sale of children's and adults' human organs. However, the unilateralism is today facing aggravating crises. China is an emerging economic giant. Russia has been raising its voice high on several occasions expressing protest and threats; the Shanghai group is gaining strength. The people of Latin America have been scoring successes as independent nation states striving for democracy and social justice. Iraq and Afghanistan, and the resistance in them have managed, in one way or another, to stop an expansion of the US armed invasion operations. NATO is disarray as some of its member states' contemplating withdrawing their forces from Afghanistan while some of the alliance forces have already withdrawn from Iraq. Others have declared their intention to withdraw their forces too. The South America Bank is established to counter reliance on the World Bank and the IMF.

The policy of the present US administration is being unmasked and is facing resistance at home and abroad amid economic recession in the country itself.

The power of imperialism does not only stem from preparing well-studied plans or from its military and economic potential, but is primarily due to our weakness in the south. Many of the peoples

of the south countries are inward looking and are facing poverty, illiteracy, disease, poor conditions of women and children, lack of democracy and violation of human rights. Thus they are steeped in their specific problems though in fact they are not specific to them but are general ones common to all the peoples of the south. They are the result of economic schemes dictated to them by international economic institutions which constitute pillars in the economic and social globalization order. They are also the outcome of domestic policies pursued by local forces that have dominated them after their liberation. These forces have come to form a basic part of the ferocious globalization's and multinationals' policies. They are practicing in the most abhorrent types of capitalist exploitation, have spread corruption in all corners of the globe and have found continued western support.

This snapshot links domestic and international conditions and tells peoples that their issues are not specific to them only, but have many common features because the enemy is one. It also stresses the need for solidarity and fraternity and for mutual support by countries.

The Solidarity Committees must really help their people of their need and how to make change.

What is happening in the Latin American countries affirms that change is possible and that people are capable of establishing their own societies according to their own vision not to the vision of others outside their borders.

The stances of Cuba, Democratic Korea, Iran, Venezuela and Syria are living examples of steadfastness and resistance to imperialist pressure. Consciousness and will are necessary to identify and achieve objectives.

In this respect the conference declares its standing by the side of all peoples steadfast in resistance and all oppressed people especially in the Palestinian and Iraqi lands for the termination of occupation.

The conference also declares its support for multilateralism, deepening democracy in international relations, diversification of development patterns, commitment to international charters, especially on women, children and workers, insistence on equality of states - big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor- and respect for people's rights to choose their social regimes for themselves and by themselves. The conference also supports all struggles for nuclear disarmament.

The conference stresses the need for paying attention to the natural resources of different countries in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law which stimulate that nations are entitled to sovereignty over their natural resources and their utilization for their own peoples' welfare.

The conditions under which we are living at present are not like those that prevailed at the time of Bandung or when APPSO and NAM were founded. The world map has changed and local conditions have changed too. The discourse and techniques of the past are no longer applicable for the present age.

The ferocious unjust inequitable globalization that is attacking us from the top down needs a counter globalization from the bottom up. Hence the need for AAPSO at present is greater and more pressing than in the past.

Our 50 Anniversary Conference will be an outstanding landmark in the history of AAPSO. It is a golden jubilee and will mark a quantum cultural leap in our history. Half a century has already been rich in successes and failures but, in its entirety, it is a bright page in the history of humanity.

May tomorrow be brighter than yesterday and today.

AAPSO President Election

The Conference on the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO held a special organizational session as a Presidium meeting which AAPSO Congress entrusts - in accordance with Article 8, item 6 of its Constitution - "to hold an emergency meeting to elect a president or a secretary general in the event of the resignation, inability and/or death of either or both."

As the body entrusted with nominating a new president - in accordance with Article 5, Item 8 of the Constitution which stipulates that the nominating committee is "the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in the host country of the headquarters Permanent Secretariat-;

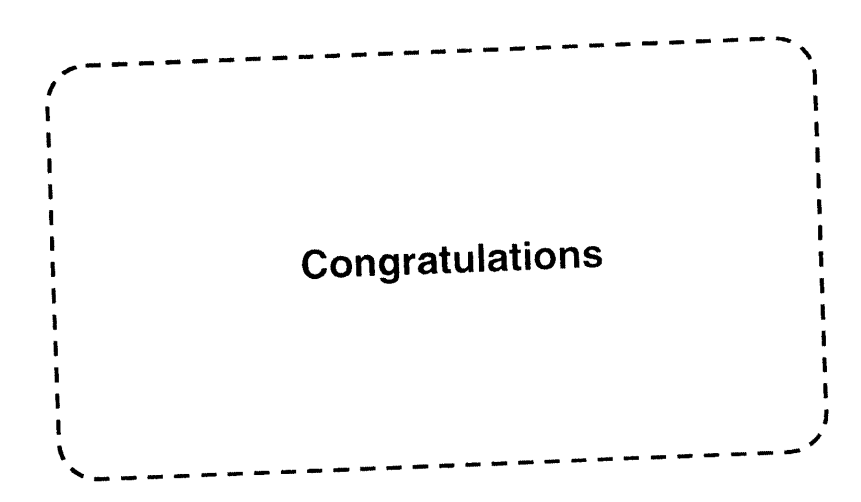
And as the permanent headquarters is in Cairo, the Egyptian Solidarity Committee is entrusted with nominating a president for AAPSO. The Egyptian Solidarity Committee actually nominated its head Mr. Ahmed Hamroush, as new president for the organization. The nomination was approved by the Permanent Secretariat. Besides, it was the only nomination presented to the Presidium.

The Presidium meeting, held on 28 February 2008, unanimously approved and welcomed Mr. Ahmed Hamroush as AAPSO President.

The representatives of the All India Peace and Solidarity Committee announced that their organization is ready to host AAPSO 8th constitutional meeting in India. The participants unanimously approved and welcomed the proposal. The conference shall be held after a year and a half and a preparatory committee shall be set up to prepare for it.

Thanks

The participants in the AAPSO 50th Anniversary Conference held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 26-28 February, thank Egypt, as President, government and people, for their role in hosting the AAPSO Permanent Secretariat and sponsoring its presence, continuity and independence. The participants also thank the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for H. E. the Minister's sending a delegate to speak in his name to the Conference.


Congratulations

Message of Syria

Honorable Mr. Nouri Abdul-Razzak, Acting President and Secretary General of Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization,

Regards...

With reference to your message to Mr. President Bashar Al-Asad, President of the Arab Rebublic of Syria, on 16/2/2008, it is my pleasure to convey a message from Mr. Prsident Bashar Al-Asad, President of the Arab Rebublic of Syria, to your conference to be held on 26-28 February in Cairo to celebrate the 50th anniversary of your Organization.

On this occasion I convey regards onto you and all conferees. I wish your conference all success. May this conference be a main step on the way of the nation struggle against challenges to affirm its identity and characteristics.

Best regards

youssif Ahmed
assador of the Arab Republic of Syria
26/2/2008

- Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.

President Bashar Al-Asad*

Mr. Nouri Abdul-Razzak Hussain, Acting President and Secretary General of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization,

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of your Organization, I convey my congratulations onto you. My best regards to all efforts and strenuous work of your Organization to have a real and active partnership in-between African and Asian peoples.

After all active efforts and contribution to your Organization since Bandung Conference, Syria is now looking forward to both Africa and Asia so that they may have some active roles toward establishing a strategic partnership in-between the two continents.

Africa and Asia are actually amongst the richest world continents with different sources of tension, threats, and conflicts; not to mention foreign occupation. Here stems the importance of your Organization as a main player of an active role to tackle conflicts and alleviate the suffering unto the Palestinian people. Noteworthy that thy have been undergoing their ordeal since the 1st Bandung Conference in 1955. The problem has been even aggravated when Israel occupied the Syrian Golan Heights and other Arab territories on launching the 1967 vehement aggression. Besides, Israel commits some daily atrocities and violations onto human rights, International Law, and human international law.

Before all these painful facts, the peoples of Asia and Africa should work to alleviate tension. They should coordinate their stances and exchange support in international forums so as to establish friendship, cooperation, peace, and justice as well as social and economic welfare for the peoples of the two continents.

Best wishes...May your conference achieve its goals.

*** President of the Arab Republic of Syria.**

President Mahinda Rajapaksa*

Message of Sri Lanka

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain
Acting President and Secretary - General
Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization
Permanent Secretariat
Cairo

Deal Secretary General,

I have great pleasure in extending my sincere greetings and felicitations on the happy occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO).

Sri Lanka had been one of the founder members of the Afro-Asian Conference and Bandung Conference, which lead to the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement several decades ago. Sri Lanka has actively participated in strengthening the relations between the African and Asian countries since the inception of NAM.

I am pleased to note that the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, which was established in January 1958 after the first conference of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Movement held in Cairo in 1957 has been actively involved in the promotion and protection of

*President of Sri Lanka.

human dignity, independence and sovereignty of all nations and in strengthening solidarity between the developing countries in Asia and Africa.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the AAPSO and its Branches all over the world for their successful efforts in bringing the developing countries in Asia and Africa to share their knowledge and experience and in unifying them under one banner.

Sincerely,

Mahinda Rajapaksa

President Omar Al-Bashir*

Message of Sudan

Mr. President of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization,

Honorable Conferees,

Peace be upon you,

It is my pleasure to convey this message while the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first conference held in Cairo on 16th December,57 to 1st January, 58 - 50 years ago.

It was the first civil organization in Asia and Africa with 55 participant countries. That underscored the need to the Organization while most of those countries underwent colonization that spoiled their wealth and paid attention to development only where necessary to attain its goals. The aura was quite ripe for the establishment of AAPSO. Different liberation movements, solidarity committees, and organizations in Africa and Asia have been called to take part in the conference marking the establishment of the Organization.

That coincided with the governments initiative for holding Bandung Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 18. 1955, with 52 states participating. Only 28 Asian and African countries were then independent while other 24 states, including the Sudan, were

*** Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the Sudan.**

**** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.**

invited to attend the Conference.

Having some common goals, those countries, with almost 3-fifth of the world population, took part in the Non-aligned Movement Conference. Despite they were rather rich with their wealth and economic resources (just like the developed countries), the colonization policies held them as among the 3rd world countries. Hence, the role of civil organizations was urgently needed.

Here came your Organization, now marking some 50 years old, with its firm steps on the way toward salvaging the principles upon which based the Non-aligned Movement and AAPSO namely solidarity and friendship among peoples as well as respect onto human rights. Among such principles was commitment to equality, justice, State sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs. Your Organization has also contributed to supporting the liberation movements and settling international conflicts peacefully.

Besides, the Organization record contained several achievements over the last 7 years, which proved having various concepts and means to face the different hurdles. The Organization paid special attention to a number of significant issues foremost among which was to set out a somewhat common and comprehensive strategy ("Integrated Social Development Policy") so that the 3rd world countries could deal with the passive impact of globalization. It also contributed to activating the Non-aligned Movement so as to play a new role following the 9/11. Africa, Asia, and the Middle East then witnessed some unprecedented presence of foreign militaries. The Organization strategy was also aimed at supporting political, economic, and social reforms in African and Asian countries to establish democracy, rational ruling, and balanced development. Additionally, civil society organizations ought to have well organized activities in a way to attain peoples' real participation, on equal foot with governments, toward attaining goals of their

countries.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of your Organization, then, may be a good opportunity to revise its performance and exercise self- criticism for attaining the Afro-Asian peoples' goals while taking into consideration all changes on both regional and international arenas.

God bless you...

Nguyen Tan Dung*

Message of Prime Minister at the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On the occasion of the holding of the International Conference in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), in Cairo, Egypt, from the 26th to 28th of February, 2008, on behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam and in my own name, I would like to convey to the Conference my warmest solidarity greetings and best wishes.

Throughout the past fifty years, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization has contributed tirelessly to the militant solidarity of the peoples of Asia and Africa in their struggles for national liberation and for the building and defence of independent and free nations. The Government and people of Vietnam highly value and are deeply grateful to the great sympathy and support reserved for Vietnam by AAPSO during their past struggle for national liberation and reunification as well as their present efforts for the country's renewal and construction.

Vietnam wishes that the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization will continue making active contributions to the solidarity movements of the peoples of Asia and Africa for their legitimate national interests and aspirations.

May we wish the participants good health and the Conference splendid success.

*** Prime Minister at the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**

Pallab Sengupta*

All India Peace and Solidarity Organization Message of Greetings

Respected President
Member of the Presidium
Delegates and Friends

At the Outset on behalf of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organization I wish to congratulate all those present here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization which played an important role in building a strong solidarity movement not only in Asia and Africa but also at the international level to strenglthen the struggles for independence peace, democracy and development.

- I wish to thanks and congratulate the Egyptian Committee for their political and materiel contribution towards AAPSO for the last 50 years.

- I also wish to pay our respectful homage to our departed President comrade Dr. Mourad Ghaleb who played a very important role in difficult period that AAPSO faced last 20 years.

Dear Friends

- Let us racall with glory the role played by our organization in building AAPSO. It was Ramshwari Nehru. The most respected

* **General Secretary of AIPSO.**

leader of our organization who came to Cairo to meet the President Gamel Abdul Nasser and proposed him the idea of creating AAPSO and President Nasser accepted that idea that how AAPSO Came into being.

From the inception of AAPSO we have tried our best to contribute to strengthen this organization and we promise to continue to do so.

Dear Friends

Last 50 years of glorious struggle initiated by AAPSO should be our strength to face the present day's challenges to build more broad based powerful solidarity movement.

I am quite sure that the member organizations will do their best to make AAPSO a vibrant organization.

I wish all success of the 50th anniversary celebration.

He Luli*

Congratulatory Message

Respected Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain,
Acting President and Secretary General, AAPSO
Dear Friends of AAPSO,

On behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, I would like to express our warm congratulations to you on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the formal inauguration of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

In the past 50 years, AAPSO has consistently supported solidarity and cooperation of the Afro-Asian people, and has made active and effective efforts to promote sustainable development, South-South cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement, and to safeguard the interests of the developing countries and world peace.

We are convinced that this conference will further the cause of AAPSO.

Wish the conference a great success.

February 22, 2008

* President, Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament.

Iraklis Tsavdaridis*

World Peace Council Message of Greetings to the 50th anniversary of AAPSO

Dear comrades and friends of AAPSO

The World Peace Council is expressing its full-hearted congratulations for your 50th anniversary, our fraternal greetings to the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization which served for half a century the interests of the poor and oppressed, of the nations and peoples striving for their independence and freedom in Africa and Asia.

At the same time we would like once again to pay our tribute to the historical leader of the AAPSO Dr. Morad Ghaleb, a great politician and internationalist, a patriot and fighter of the rights of the peoples. He will be remembered by the younger generations as a genuine example of a man of principles who contributed to the important achievements of the nations in the 20th century.

Dear comrades and friends

The WPC stood from the very first moment aside the AAPSO, from its moment of foundation in 1958. Our two Organisations were linked through multiple struggles for the liberation of nations from colonial rule and imperialist aggressions. Our mutual cooperation derives from our common ideals and principles. Today we are again side by side struggling against

*** Executive Secretary World Peace Council (WPC).**

neo-colonialism and imperialist domination, for the common aspirations of the vast majority of the peoples in the continents of Africa and Asia.

We reiterate our support to the African peoples who may have achieved their independence on political level through hard struggle and sacrifices, but they continue being dependent economically and exploited by old and new foreign rulers and multinational corporations. We express our solidarity to the peoples of Asia who are facing today the threats of imperialism in all spheres of live.

Today when the aggressiveness of Imperialism is growing more and more, the solidarity of the peoples is indispensable. We want to use this opportunity to send a clear message from this AAPSO conference, a message of solidarity to the peoples under occupation, the peoples who resist their occupiers exercising their legitimate right and duty. The WPC will keep on being actively on your side till your final victory!

In this common struggle we will be together with AAPSO and many other International and regional progressive and anti-imperialist Organizations.

The only super-power in the world is the power of the peoples!

Last but not least allow me to invite you officially to attend the next Assembly of the WPC and the broad World Peace Conference, to be held in Caracas on April 8-13, 2008. There we will declare with delegations from more than 80 countries for one week "Caracas as the World Capital of Peace and Anti-imperialist Struggle"

Long live the solidarity of the peoples!
Long live the AAPSO!

Alfonso Fraga Perez*

OSPAAAL - Cuba

Dear comrades:

On the occasion of the International Conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of AAPSO, we request you to convey to the personalities who preside such important meeting as well as to the delegates and guests who are taking part in it, the warm greetings and best wishes of success from the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL).

On such a significant date, we recall the Conference of Bandung, celebrated in the Island of Java on April 18, 1955, where twenty-nine Heads of State from Asia and Africa met to discuss and analyze matters of common interest and international affairs. The Conference was a symbol to the liberation processes in the world, particularly in Asia and Africa, as well as an important milestone in the movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

This revolutionary background and struggle for independence gave birth to AAPSO in December, 1957. This organization has played a relevant role in the fight of the Asian and African peoples for their liberation from colonialism and in all their struggles along the past fifty years. AAPSO was also a precedent and one of the inspirations for the founding of OSPAAAL in January, 1966. Along

* **Secretary General - OSPAAAL Cuba.**

these forty years, our organization has granted its solidarity to the most genuine targets of the Third World peoples.

Today, OSPAAAL observes with great concern that the hegemonic attempts of world domination on the part of the present U.S. administration, headed by George W. Bush and the neo-Fascist sectors represented in it, are carrying out a premeditated policy of global militarization. They are permanently utilizing State terrorism to attempt to trample on the fight and resistance of the peoples that oppose their plans, sheltering behind the repulsive manipulation of opposing terrorism when the truth is that they are using it as a pretext to destroy countries like Iraq and Afghanistan and loot their natural resources and riches; while at the same time, they refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol to preserve the ecological patrimony of mankind.

For this reason, our tricontinental organization makes a calling to denounce and oppose that unilateral, arrogant and irresponsible policy that may lead to new threats to mankind. This is a first-rank task for the political parties and forces, the popular and social movements and the progressive and peace-loving organizations that participate of your important meeting.

OSPAAAL reaffirms to you that it will continue working in defense of peace, in defense of all the national rights of our Third World peoples, against the economic and social terrorism of which our people are victims, against the structural underdevelopment dragged by the economies of poor peoples, in defense of the environment and against despair, poverty, illnesses and other alarming forms of social injustice that scourge millions of human beings in the planet.

In brotherhood,

Gisèle RABESAHALA*

Message From The Solidarity Committee of Madagascar (Fifanampiana Malagasy) on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO

On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of AAPSO, the FIFANAMPIANA MALAGASY (Solidarity Committee of Madagascar) has the pleasure and makes its duty to express its warm congratulations to all committee-members and leaders of AAPSO.

It sends also its congratulations and wishes of success to all participants present in Cairo at the meeting devoted to this jubilee.

Dear friends and comrades,

This anniversary provides us the occasion to assessing AAPSO's activities during the last half century.

From its part, the Solidarity Committee of Madagascar considers such assessment as positive, since AAPSO has always remained faithful to the guiding principles of the Organisation from its inception: respect of all peoples' rights to PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, and NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

AAPSO has always been keeping in touch with the history, at the frontline of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism, the abject system of apartheid in South Africa, for the respect of national rights of the Palestinian and Sahraoui peoples.

Despite drastic changes which had changed the balance of

*** President of the FIFANAMPIANA MALAGASY (Solidarity Committee of Madagascar).**

powers at the international level during the last ten years, as well as the race for superprofits of multinational corporations, under the cover of liberal globalisation, AAPSO, by virtue of its

constant stance, has been standing by the sides of peoples who struggle against foreign aggression, dictatorship, non-respect of human rights, in the Middle East, Asia and everywhere.

That work achieved by AAPSO has been the result of commendable efforts from the part of its leaders who had already passed away or still in activity, to whom we pay tribute, and in particular the General Secretary Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain.

We do not forget as well, the important contribution of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee, which hosts the headquarters of AAPSO during this half-century, and the Permanent Secretariat whose devotion deserves our gratitude.

Dear friends and comrades,

We would like to renew our fraternal congratulations and say convincingly:

LONG LIVE THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION!

Sukla Sen*

Dear Com. Nouri,
Please find below the solidarity message from the CNDP, India
National Convention in Nagpur (Feb. 1-3).
Wishing you all the best

The Third National Convention of the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP), India, held in Nagpur from Feb. 1-3, wishes a roaring success to the fiftieth anniversary of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization on 26-28 February, 2008 in Cairo, Egypt.

The CNDP puts on record its great appreciation of the role played by the AAPSO over the last half century in reinforcing the non-aligned movement (NAM) to ensure a more equitable world order free from the menace of imperialist depredations and the scourge of war. It has also consistently campaigned for a nuclear weapon-free world. The CNDP very much shares this goal.

The CNDP also, on this occasion, fondly recalls its collaboration with the AAPSO in the recent past in March 2007, in organizing an international seminar on the Indo-US nuclear deal. The CNDP would keenly look forward to more such collaborative efforts in the future as well.

February 4th, 2008

* **Activist at the CNDP (Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace) in India.**

Roland Herbert *

Message of Greetings

Dear friend Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak, Secretary General and acting President of AAPSO and
Dear friend Mr. Ahmed Hamroush, candidate for Presidency of AAPSO and President of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee,
Dear friends of the Cairo commemorative meeting of AAPSO on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of its foundation.

When I learned from Mr. Achim Reichardt, the former Secretary General of the GDR Solidarity Committee of the plans to organize a commemorative meeting on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of AAPSO, I immediately felt that the mental and internal strength of the ideas that had led to the birth of the Afro Asian Solidarity Organisation are not dead and have inspired personalities and member committees to face the challenges of 21st centuary as a centuary of globalization which needs new forms of solidarity among the Afro-Asian peoples but also the peoples of the whole world including Afro-Asian peoples. Indeed it simultaneously offers a bundle of new chances to rally together for the aims of solidarity. The historical experience of the elder generation and foundation leaders of AAPSO must now be coupled with the use of the vast resources of technological

*** Activist in the Solidarity Movement.**

knowledge of the young generation to fight any form of hegemon ism, social and legal injustice still existing for people in many parts of the world.

At this point I would like to send my heartfelt greetings to all participants of the Cairo commemorative meeting on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of AAPSO and I feel very sorry that due to the illness of my wife and heavy personal engagement I was not able to come to Cairo at this moment and to visit friends after 20 years of absence from Cairo. I hope I will have the chance of a visit to Cairo in the near future.

Concluding allow me to express my deep condolences to AAPSO on the sad demise of our great friend and fighter Mourad Ghaleb, the President of AAPSO which is a big loss for all of us.

Othman Banani*

Congratulations to AAPSO on its 50th Anniversary**

Deputy President and Secretary General of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak;

Best regards.

It is my pleasure to address your Excellency, members of the Permanent Secretariat, and all active people working hard and honestly to keep the Organization on track toward attaining the noble targets set upon establishment 50 years ago.

It would be difficult for those who have not been in touch with neither AAPSO and its history, nor its conferences, forums, and meetings, to recognize the value of the Organization work and achievements. It would be even rather difficult to recognize how the Organization managed to overcome the different hurdles in order to pass by various activities and developed work based on a rich prolonged experience over 50 years. Such a long time has witnessed struggle on different fronts against the occupation, Zionism, neo-occupation and imperialism. Besides, AAPSO has been working to achieve peoples' liberation as well as economic, social, and cultural development.

Here we must remember the misery and ordeal undergone by the Organization and its workers throughout its Conference for Solidarity with the Palestinian People held in Nicosia in February

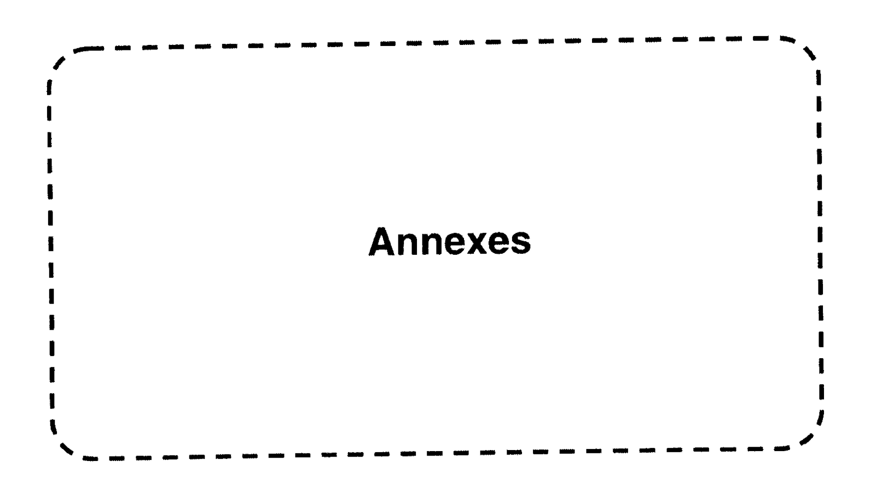
* Member of AAPSO Permanent Secretariat (1963 – 1981).

** Translated by: Mrs. Hoda Osman.

1978. It was the assassination of the then former Secretary General, the martyr Yousif Al-Sebaei. Moreover, some members participating to the conference have been kidnapped (Mr. Nouri Abdul-Razzak himself was among them).

The event marked the end of a certain phase and the start of another. The new leadership in AAPSO then, with its rather long and wise experience in the field of politics, has managed to administrate tactfully some difficulties which could have destroyed the Organization. The leadership has also managed to lead AAPSO throughout the past three decades to play its role and hold its prominent place amongst other NGOs worldwide.

Congratulations to Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization and best regards to its leaders and workers on celebrating its 50th anniversary.



Annexes

Annex (1)

- Mr. Othman Banani
- Mr. Shawki Galal
- Mr. KP Sharma Oli

Mr. Othman Banani*

"Al-Mahdy Ben Barka and The Preparation for the Tri-Continental Conference"

On the 29th of October 1965, at the very heart of the French capital, Paris, the Moroccan progressive leader, Al Mahdy Ben Barka, was abducted, tortured and assassinated; he had been the president of the International Preparatory Committee for the Tri-Continental Conference. It was clear, at the time, that the Moroccan, French, American and Israeli Secret Services were behind the disappearance of the Moroccan leader. The purpose was to stop the advance of this outstanding world figure and to prevent his arrival alive to the Tri-Continental Conference which was held in Havana – Cuba in January of 1966.

Al Mahdy Ben Barka was born in Rabat – Morocco in 1920. Following successful studies, he obtained his Bsc. In Mathematics from the University of Algeria. He went back to Morocco in 1940 to devote himself to the political struggle against French colonialism. He was one of the main elements in the French – Moroccan negotiations which led to the independence of Morocco in 1956.

Al Mahdy Ben Barka headed the first Consultative Council in independent Morocco and began to work towards the building of a progressive Morocco, liberated from the remnants of colonization. Three years after the independence, however, Al Mahdy Ben Barka realized that colonialism had turned into neo-colonialism

*** - Member of the AAPSO Permanent Secretariat (October 1963 – 1981).**
- Professor of Contemporary History at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities – Mohamed V University – Rabat – Morocco (1981 – 2002).
- Translated by: Mrs. Nehad Salem.

and that the collaborators and agents of the latter were regaining their influence and their positions, that the official Morocco was moving along a path that would not lead to real liberation and independence. He, consequently, severed his official relations with the Moroccan regime. The leaders of the resistance of liberation army and the leaders of the Moroccan Trade Union Federation, who had all chosen to oppose the regime and with them the cadres of the UNFP (the National Federation of the Popular Forces) who had been subjected to savage persecution, had faced several trials, served many unjust sentences as well as the confiscation of all their publications all joined Al Mahdy Ben Barka in the establishment of a new party. This new party joined AAPSO, remained one of its active members and played its role fully in supporting the objectives, principles and programs of the Organization.

In January 1960, Al Mahdy Ben Barka was forced to leave Morocco and, ever since then, he became in charge of the external relations of the party and its permanent representative in AAPSO.

Al Mahdy Ben Barka's first international activity was a journey to the Soviet Union, to the Peoples Republic of China, to India, to Egypt, to Yugoslavia and to some other countries in response to official invitation from those states. He initiated his African activities by participating in the African Peoples Conference held in Tunis in January 1960 where he headed its political committee and was elected a member of its executive committee. His outstanding address before the conference spoke of the Moroccan experience as a living example of an African country that had achieved independence after a long struggle only to fall into the clutches of neo-colonialism. The address was a clear warning of what the newly independent African state may be subjected to.

Yet, the real beginning of Ben Barka's activities in the Afro-Asian context was his effective participation and contribution

to the second AAPSO conference held in Conakry – Guinea in 1960, it was the conference which established the organizational bases of AAPSO that crystallized the organization's stand vis-à-vis imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

Prior to the holding of the Conakry conference, AAPSO had organized several Afro-Asian specialized meetings which increased and expended its presence as well as its credibility in the Afro-Asian world thanks also to the unity and solidarity of its members. That was the time when AAPSO reached its full maturity and was at the peak of its position.

That was also when the Sino-Soviet conflict exploded and the Soviet economic assistance to China was cut off during the conference itself in 1960. This had a negative impact on the activities of the Organization and on the harmony that reigned among its members.

The Conakry conference had set up the "Afro-Asian Solidarity Fund" among whose responsibilities was to supervise the Organization's finances and to support African and Asian liberation movements, both financially and morally. The positions of the Soviet and the Chinese, as well as that of their supporters within the conference, had to be taken into consideration when establishing the important committee which was to supervise the activities and work of the Fund. Thanks to the direct intervention of President Ahmed Sekoutouri and his actual participation in some of the conference sessions, a committee was formed by unanimous approval. It was composed of Ismail Toure of Guinea as President, of two vice presidents: Ben Barka from Morocco and Zhu Tze-Chi from China as well as four members representing the Soviet Union, Egypt, Indonesia and Cameroon. At the same time, Ben Barka was given the responsibility of coordinating the work of the Fund Committee based in Conakry and that of the AAPSO Permanent Secretariat based in Cairo. The Guinean and the Moroccan members were selected, respectively, as President and

Vice President of the Fund Committee because of their personal authority, their good reputation and their superior political formation, all of which made them able to conciliate the Soviet and Chinese choices which had often become contradictory.

It should be noted that Al Mahdy Ben Barka had also been selected President of the Political Committee at the Conakry conference wherein his capabilities and personal value were recognized by all. Ever since then he remained at the head of the organizing committee within AAPSO, the committee which dealt with matters pertaining to membership in the organization with all the complications this entailed. This committee also programmed the activities of the Organization, determined the path it would follow as well as the dates and venues of its meetings. Moreover, it was also the committee which decided to initiate the preparation for the Tri-Continental Conference.

The activities and vitality of the committee in charge of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Fund helped Ben Barka to consolidate his position within AAPSO as coordinator between the Fund Committee and the Secretariat. In this capacity, he visited several African and Asian capitals as well as several socialist countries, establishing permanent contact with member and observer organizations in AAPSO as well as with several other democratic non-governmental organizations. Relations of trust, friendship and work linked him with several leaders of the third world, particularly, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Ahmed Ben Bella, Sekoutoure, Nkrumah, Nierere and, later, Castro.

This continuous and close relation with Afro-Asian activities and with the decision-making circles in some progressive Afro-Asian countries allowed Ben Barka to gain a vast and profound knowledge of the Organization's affairs, secrets and of the conflict existing between some of its members, particularly the one between China and the Soviet Union followed by the conflict between China and India and, later, China and Cuba.

The second AAPSO conference held in Tanganyika in January 1963 was the true beginning of a move towards the convening of a world conference for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The question of "expanding solidarity to cover the three continents" had been raised for the first time in some of the speeches delivered during the conference which created AAPSO in Cairo towards the end of 1957 and the beginning of 1958. Yet, the important event which had a strong impact in supporting the move towards establishing solidarity among the three continents had been the Cuban revolution in January 1959. A regime came to power which was of a socialist nature as well as being anti imperialist and anti colonialist. Moreover, the Cuban revolutionaries were aware of the fact that their progressive regime was threatened and that its survival was closely linked to the vitality and strength of the solidarity among Latin American revolutionary movement as well as the solidarity and support from revolutionary movements in Africa and Asia. President Fidel Castro was the first, in 1960, to call for the convening of a conference for the peoples of the third world in Havana, in support of the struggle against imperialism. The conditions, however, were not yet ripe enough for the convening of such a conference and Cuban initiatives failed since only Mexico, Venezuela and Panama accepted the invitation.

The socialist option chosen by the Cuban revolution, as well as its acceptance of Soviet economic and military aid, led the USA to organize, finance and train Cuban mercenaries to attach Cuba on April 17, 1961. The attack failed completely in the Bay of Pigs. This led president Castro to raise the question of "convening a tri-continental conference" more urgently and more insistently. He sent a personal representative to the fourth session of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Council meeting in Bandung – Indonesia towards the end of April 1961, he was the first Latin American to attend an AAPSO meeting. Castro also sent a telegram to the

Council inviting the Africans and the Asians to a tri-continental peoples' conference in Havana.

At the meeting of the AAPSO Executive Committee held in Gaza in January 1961, it was decided that the first necessary steps would be taken to prepare for the conference of peoples organizations from the three continents. It was also decided to send a delegation composed of some of the members of the Executive Committee, among them Ban Barka, and some of the members of the AAPSO permanent secretariat to Stockholm to attend the World Peace Conference held during the same month (January 1961), for an informal debate with the participating Latin American Organizations. The delegation returned to the AAPSO headquarters in Cairo carrying a proposal from the World Peace Council to the effect "that the Council in cooperation with the African and Asian Organizations would prepare for the Tri-Continental Conference.

The proposal had, in fact, been inspired by the Soviet AAPSO Committee. Naturally, the Chinese AAPSO Committee objected and opinions within the permanent AAPSO secretariat were divided as well as the opinions within the Executive Committee. Because of the Sino-Soviet conflict and its resulting complications, several obstacles stood in the way of preparing the conference, this continued until the conference held in Tanganyika in February 1963. When an agreement was reached to expand the responsibilities of the Afro-Asian Fund Committee, the Guinean president and the Moroccan vice-president remained in office, the latter, Ben Barka, also remained in charge of coordinating with the permanent AAPSO secretariat. This was thanks to the efforts of Ben Barka as president of the organizing committee for the conference and the full support of the representatives, particularly, of Egypt, Algeria, Vietnam, Ghana and Guinea. The latter countries had been working in unison and understanding to reduce the impact of the Sino-Soviet differences within the

Organization and that is why the conference agreed to set up an international preparatory independent committee under the supervision of 18 organizations, 6 from each continent, which would assume the responsibility of preparing for the conference both politically and materially. During the conference, 6 members from Africa and 6 from Asia were elected and entrusted with the task of contacting peoples' organizations in Latin America to select the 6 which would represent their continent in the preparatory committee. This preparatory committee was unable to complete its work because the 6 Latin American members had not joined it. The selection of members from Latin America was a difficult problem because it had not been easy to reach an agreement between Cuba, China and the Soviet Union concerning a list, acceptable to all three of them, of the revolutionary progressive movements in Latin America.

At the end of 1963, President Castro submitted a list of 6 Latin American organizations, thus paving the way for the convening of the Tri-Continental Conference which was finally decided during the Afro-Asian economic seminar held in Algeria at the end of February 1965 under the direct sponsorship of President Ben Bella. Che Guevara, along with a Cuban delegation, participated in the seminar and pressure was put to bear on the Soviet and the Chinese taking part in the seminar to leave their differences aside and to sit together at the same table to discuss more effective anti imperialist measures to be taken.

Finally, in the middle of May 1965, the biggest and most important Afro-Asian conference in the history of AAPSO was held in Ghana. It was attended by many Latin American organizations headed by the Cuban delegation and the decision of convening the Tri-Continental Conference in Havana – Cuba at the beginning of January 1966 was adopted. Al Mahdy Ben Barka was officially elected President of the International Preparatory Committee in appreciation and recognition of his international personal status

and of his great services to the cause of solidarity among the peoples of the three continents.

Immediately after the end of the Conference, Al Mahdy Ben Barka convened the Preparatory Committee for a meeting; it was the first meeting to be held in the presence of all its members.

In order to confirm the positive results achieved during the Accra Conference and to ensure that such benefits would not be lost, he undertook a rapid visit, almost secret, to Beijing in July 1965. He met with Mao Tse Tung and convinced the Chinese that the Tri-Continental Conference was not nearly a governmental conference, that it was a conference for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America and that the participation of the representatives of the Asian peoples in the Soviet Republics was unavoidable. The lofty objective of the conference was to support the struggle of the peoples against imperialism. Ben Barka's visit put an end to the Chinese refusal to accept the participation of the Soviet Solidarity Committee in the Havana Conference. Al Mahdy Ben Barka always considered that any rift within the solidarity organization could only serve imperialist interest. He expressed this view during the sixth session of AAPSO's Council in Algiers in March of 1964 when he said: "We should be aware of the dangers which sometimes threaten our unity and which could sabotage our work and turn us away from our main objectives. Such dangers can be avoided in an organized manner if we remain vigilant and safeguard the three basic qualities characterizing our movement, they are: the fact that we are a peoples' movement, an anti-colonialist movement and a movement of solidarity. This means that our main concerns should be always the concerns of peoples which sometimes go beyond the limits of governmental policies. This makes it necessary to put aside in our discussions any matter not directly related to the struggle against colonialism so that we may not leave any room for manoeuvers liable to cause a division in the structure and ranks of our organization.

In keeping with the decision adopted at the Accra Conference, the International Preparatory Committee met once again in Cairo, in September, under the chairmanship of Ben Barks and adopted the agenda of the Tri-Continental Conference. It issued an appeal to international public opinion signed by Ben Barka in which he announced: "The time has come to put an end to the exploitation and oppression of imperialism against the peoples of the third world". In a press conference that followed the meeting he declared: "Our struggle is one and so is our enemy: imperialism."

He left for Havana immediately afterwards to put the final touches to the Tri-Continental Conference in consultation with President Fidel Castro. In the beginning of October, during a quick passage in Cairo, Ben Barka was, as usual, optimistic, but he was also, as usual, able to analyze wisely the successes achieved by neo-colonialism and imperialism, particularly, in Africa. Indeed, the African Continent had changed a lot from what it had been between 1960 and 1963. Moreover, the Sino-Soviet conflict had been very destructive and Ben Barka believed that if the revolutionary and progressive forces of the world did not unite, then the imperialist storm headed by the USA would sweep the entire third world.

Finally, the Tri-Continental Conference was held on the determined date, but in the absence of the man who had fought strongly, effectively and ingeniously for it to be convened, all because the Moroccan regime with the help of American imperialism and French neo-colonialism had made sure he wont be absent.

During the Conference itself, which was attended by 512 participants representing 82 delegations from Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as observers from different part of the world, the Sino-Soviet conflict exploded in the plenary meetings, as well as in the different committees and backstage. The situation became even more complicated with the explosion of the

Cuban-Chinese conflict; the conflicts were broadcast which led to a declaration that the Chinese aid to Cuba related to rice for 1966 would come to an end. The Cubans considered such a step to be a sanction against the Cuban leadership a sort of blackmail and strong pressure to force the Cubans to change their stand vis-à-vis the Soviet Union. The major and basic objective of the Tri-Continental Conference for which Ben Barka and others had fought was for the peoples to meet, especially, the two great currents that had stemmed from the Socialist October Revulsion and from the National Liberation Revolution in China, and all would unite within a world progressive peoples' organization. Unfortunately, the expected new-born unity had not reached its maturity.

Because of the Sino-Soviet differences within the organizing committee, the subject of "establishing a Tri-Continental Organization" remained pending despite long meetings that hampered the work of the conference and postponed its closure for several days. The Soviet delegation and most of the other delegations wished to establish the Tri-Continental Organization with headquarters in Cairo, but the Chinese delegation was afraid that such a new organization would lead to canceling the convening of the Fifth AAPSO Conference which was supposed to be held in Beijing in 1967 and which the Chinese had been looking forward to with great hopes. That is why the Chinese delegation proposed to keep AAPSO as it is in Cairo and to create another parallel organization which would include only the Latin American countries; they threatened to withdraw if a Tri-Continental single organization was established. Consequently, and in order to maintain the unity of the world anti-imperialist front, the Conference reached a compromise agreement which was to maintain AAPSO in Cairo, to convene its Fifth Conference in Beijing in May 1067 as had been previously decided and to create another organization for the peoples of the

three continents with temporary headquarters in Havana. It was also decided that the new organization would convene its second conference in Cairo in 1968 when circumstances would have perhaps changed, when Sino-Soviet relations may have improved and when the final appropriate decision concerning its headquarters and structure would be adopted.

Unfortunately, all had been mere hopes destroyed by bitter reality. The Sino-Soviet conflict became more complicated and the violence of imperialism became more savage. The fifth AAPSO Conference of 1967 in Beijing was not convened and China withdrew from the Organization. The June 1967 war broke out in the Arab Mashreq, Egypt paid the price and the rest is known. The second conference of the Tri-Continental Organization of Cairo 1968 was not convened. The situation that had followed the Havana Conference remained as is with the existence of AAPSO in Cairo and the Tri-Continental Organization in Havana. This is the situation that we are still living in today.

Mr. Shawki Galal*

The Question is: What after the Recession of American Globalization?**

Suddenly, in the ninth decade of the 20th century, the discourse about the appearance of globalization was often repeated and spread.

In my understanding, there are two meanings to the word "globalization":

The first is the transformation which took place in practical, theoretical and applied creativity which led to the transformations in daily life and relations as well as in material tools and the framework of human and social values; a transformation towards a new stage of civilization. This transformation appeared clearly as a result of the major development in the field of informatics and communication that led to what is usually referred to by some as a condensation of time and space. The results of such transformations had a great impact on political, economic, military, educational and scientific life... etc. Thus it provided unprecedented possibilities for investment and for the mobility of finance, regardless of whether all this was good or evil for humanity and societies. Nevertheless, all of it remained within the scope of the capital system; that is the civilizational meaning defended by emerging societies since it is considered as the gateway to progress in the civilizational race.

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The second meaning is the one championed and spread by neo-liberalism in the West – particularly in Britain and the United States. It was spread by them and after them by Arab intellectuals and authors but without separating this meaning from the previous. So one was the repetition of slogans such as 'the world is a small village' in which all the frontiers between states have fallen, that the age of national states and national identities had come to an end, and with them the capability of individuals and societies to resist the free market for which there was no possible substitute. The sovereignty of states receded. The possibility of achieving actual cultural independence disappeared. Moreover, the skies became open to all possible information, their winds swept over weak societies and began to shape the thinking processes of their peoples into the mold of American ideology.

Naturally, such a path leads to opening all frontiers but only from one side, in order to allow the penetration of the interested parties from among the neo-liberals, a safe and peaceful penetration. This indeed is the meaning consecrated by American propaganda and media in the minds of societies suffering from cultural vacuum and from economical political weakness... this latter meaning is a true echo to what had been dubbed, for three centuries, as the American dream controlling American culture. It justifies the adoption of a behaviour tending towards what is referred to as the right of the United States to cultural, military and economic hegemony, to become, arbitrarily, the world policemen and to impose its biased judgments with regard to human rights or democracy for example... this was expressed by former American President Theodore Roosevelt when he said "the Americanization of the world is the destiny and fate of our nation...". That is what Americans learned in school concerning the clear cut destiny of Anglo-Saxons, or rather precisely of the United States, heir to European colonialism.

Nevertheless, this does not negate a general law to the effect

that life is a conflict... a conflict of interests and not a conflict of civilizations since civilization is one because humanity is one, even if shared by different centers of power and production in our globe.

The second meaning mentioned above is an erroneous reading of the phenomenon or a biased and misleading ideological discourse which turns us away from real issues since it neglects the true crises; it makes us err in our understanding of the historical crises from which the world is suffering. It also leads the weak peoples to follow a mirage and end up facing one catastrophe following the other along their path.

Yes, the world is at a crossroads, at a radical turning point, but not according to the discourse of neo-liberalism about globalization. We are living in an age of globalization... the transformation of a number of former colonies aspiring and striving along the path to development... it is a radical transformation of the global capital system that promises the birth of a new system.

The crisis stems from the fact that globalization is a phenomenon that gave rise to different opinions about it and its history and whether it is on its way to disappearing. The remaining urgent question which has not yet found an answer is: what then?

The crisis is also a scientific and objective explanation of the reasons for the transformation, for the newly invented factors, the assimilation of its consequences and how to deal with it.

We are about to witness the birth of a new world... we with only a traditional way of thinking; no longer valid, for baggage... We are living an intellectual vacuum... as well as the appearance of new forces affirming their presence economically, culturally, and politically at the global level. I mean by this the shifting of the center power of civilization to another center not monopolized by the West as it had been for a few centuries... We are about to witness a creative chaos, not in the sense often repeated by the champions of neo-liberalism, but in the sense of a world

phenomenon which we temporarily, lack the necessary intellectual tools to understand, hence the need to invent the new interim framework or paradigm.

The American dreams of expansionism are as old as the United States itself. It was, for example, not, consequently, strange to hear a repetition of this expansionist dream by outstanding immigrants from the moment they set foot in the new world. It was not surprising for Herman Melville to say in 1812 "We are the pioneers of the world... we chose the Lord ... and it has become necessary for most nations to occupy a backward position...". American expansionism scored great victories, beginning with the victory against the original inhabitants, then the victory of the North over the South, followed by the victory in the Caribbean and Latin America. Finally came the victory in the Second World War since America was the main victor because it emerged safe and sound from the war with all its tremendous capacities intact.

Some people spread the idea of what was dubbed the 'American century' ... even though that was not the true beginning... but rather the beginning of the end... the beginning of the end of the dream of a greedy empire wishing to expand and establish its hegemony, a dream that leads to overloading the peoples' movements and increasing their suffering, as well as confiscating the movement of societies and of history to serve its own interest...

It was the beginning of the consequences of the complex of superiority which leads to conflict and to division, to the refusal to admit reality and fact.

The rise of the United States on the way towards financial hegemony, says Emmanuel Valerstein, is a long path which began with the global economic stagnation of 1873, when the United States and Germany began to compete in order to increase their respective share of world markets. It finally became a reality at the beginning of the economic recession in Britain...

That is when the civil war in America came to an end with the victory of the North; that was also when Germany achieved its union, when France lost the war against Russia. The United States and Germany then became the main producers in specific sectors: steel, then cars in the United States and chemicals in Germany whose slogan had become "the thousand years empire". The slogan of the United States was the 'American dream' and 'the great society', the society of the four freedoms declared by President Franklin Roosevelt.

The United States emerged victorious from the Two World Wars with all its strength and all its ambitions intact. But the success of the United States as a world hegemonic force following the Second World War created the very conditions for the end of its hegemony. This appeared clearly in several forms, such as the repeated defeats of its military force and its ideological power. The defeats began with the Vietnam War and then Korea, followed by the Youth revolution in 1968 which still intellectually existent and which, among other things, revolves around the history of civilization and the condemnation of the West's vision propagated by the ideology of the American administration, the true heir of Europe.

The above mentioned vision claims that the West is the starting point and the element of strength and creativity as well as the maker of civilization. Yet there were also other defeats such as Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq... a long series the psychological impact of which was doubled by what took place on the 11th of September. The September event fell within the framework of a realization of the crisis, it was an opportunity for the hawks to come to the forefront to implement their own secret agenda. Yet that same event, like previous defeat, led the United States to become entangled into yet more defeats that bled their resources in defense of their feeling of superiority and the illusion known in American culture as "the American dream and the great society".

All the above is in support of the advancing recession which is now appearing clearly in the political, economic, moral and social crises, and in the shortcomings in the field of education and scientific research.

Talk of the recession of American hegemony of an imperialist nature is not new. Since the middle of the 20th century, the official United States began to experience concerns about "the future" and "the American dream". Here we may well mention what Paul Kennedy said in his book "Preparing for the 21st Century" when he declared "a hundred years ago, there was a widespread dialogue in Britain about the future when it was still the great power..." It is also worth mentioning that Paul Kennedy and many others saw their prophecies come true when they affirmed that great empires that stood against the march of history and stood in the path of peoples and nations waste their money, their military and economic powers and earned a bad reputation, all in order to resist the change of the prevailing system and maintain their hegemony. The result is that this foolish waste supports and pushes forward the recession and collapse of the system in question.

Now the United States is suffering from this very serious disease. The forces of neo-liberalism, heirs to what they call "Old Europe", are obstinately and stupidly persisting. To give but one example: let us quote John Eckenbery in "Foreign Affairs" January/February, 2008 issue": the hegemony of the United States will practically come to an end. Consequently, the grand strategy of the United States will be based on a major question: "What type of world order does the United States wish to establish to replace the old order after it loses all its strength?" In his article he refers to what was said by the political philosopher John Rawls "there must be a vision for political institutions" (Behind a Veil of Ignorance), in the sense that the architects of such institutions are working out their designs as if they know precisely where such

institutions will be within the economic and social system."

In the same issue of the magazine we read what follows: there are those who believe that the American era is nearing its end. The world order of a Western nature will be replaced by an order more and more under the control of the East. The historian Neil Furguson said: "the bloody twentieth century witnessed the sunset of the West" and the appearance of a new world trend towards the East. "those who think realistically believe that the position of the United States is being eroded whereas China is getting systematically stronger...the whole thing is a drama that will end with the rise of China and the beginning of a world order the axis of which will be Asia...This, however, does not mean the disappearance and fall of the existing poles, but rather a new partnership among new members in a multi-polar world order...It will be the end of a uni-polar world" (Foreign Affairs Magazine pages 23 and 24).

Indeed the Far East began to rise once again as prophesied by many. East and South Asia, particularly Japan/China/India have become eminently present at a global level in the areas of politics, economy, scientific research and culture. There are also the countries of Latin America, the backyard of the United States of America, particularly Brazil and resisting countries such as Venezuela and others.

Several American reports refer to the fact that China is on its way to becoming an influential world power. The volume of the latter's economy has increased four fold since the beginning of the reforms in the seventies; it will double in the course of the coming decade. China has become one of the most important centers of heavy industry in the world, it consumes around one third of the world's production of iron, steel and coal. Its reserves in foreign currencies have doubled to more than a trillion dollars by the end of 2007. The scope of its diplomatic influence has gone beyond Asia to reach Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

China has begun to invest some of its reserves in foreign currency abroad, such as considering the possibility of buying a British bank for the sum of forty seven billion dollars. We do remember that in 1996 China sent its large investment companies abroad to offer new possibilities as well as loans and military aid. Moreover, we note that when the Western oil companies withdrew from the Sudan in 1996, on the pretext that the Sudan was harboring terrorism, the Chinese companies bought forty percent of the shares of The Grand Nile Oil Company, and later doubled its share. There are also large Chinese investments in Darfur as well as a contract with the Sudanese government by virtue of which China is buying two thirds of the Sudan's exports. China is also importing from Iran large quantities of crude oil. Iran also agreed to sell natural gas to a Chinese company to the tune of twenty billion dollars a year and for a period of twenty five years. In 2007, China became the biggest trade partner for Iran, Northern Korea and the Sudan. It also became the second biggest trade partner for Burma and Zimbabwe. Thus we find that Africa, Asia and Latin America have become a field of peaceful confrontation and competition between the United States and China.

Iran is yet another rising force coming into the forefront at the regional level and by so doing bringing back some of the glory of its ancient Persian history. The present conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel revolves around this very objective and not at all as some Americans wrongly claim and as some Arab rulers and elite wish to portray it: a battle between Islam and the West and between the Sunnah and the Shi'a. American recession and involvement offer Iran the possibility of achieving its objective at both local and world levels.

Iran is actively striving to making the above a reality by being active in various dimensions such as economic relations with China, with the countries of East Africa, as well as new diplomatic relations with the Arabs despite the United States' attempt to gain

the sympathy of some Arab countries. The latter, instead of understanding the reality of the conflict and instead of becoming an active party in the interest of the Arab future, both short term and long term, the Arabs are not moving internally, regionally and globally in this direction. What I mean is that instead of getting involved in a battle to the benefit of others, the Arabs should correct their perspective.

The countries of East and South Asia as well as Iran, in addition to a number of Latin American countries, are paying great attention to science, to scientific research both theoretical and applied, to education in general and to university education in particular. This is the path they chose because they believe it is the correct path to renaissance and to the achievement of progress as civilizations in support of their independence and international relations. These countries have adopted the policy and culture of nurturing scientific research and technology, providing all the necessary financial and social conditions for such an endeavor. It is expected by experts that these countries will have a strong impact in reorganizing and developing the system and institutions of scientific research and providing the necessary opportunity of the interaction of their own scientists with the major world scientific institutions. They have become a force of attraction for applied technology.

As a result of all their above their markets are expected to become a strong influencing factor in determining industrial criteria which differ from the criteria of the West. They are expected to set up an international system of the rights of intellectual property based on new Asian-born political, mental and economic visions. The countries of East and South Asia are an additional impetus for capital, technology and commodities, as well as a new axis of international economic dynamics. They are an additional power along the more developed countries. This means that the world stage will no longer be monopolized by one power or by the West

alone, it will be the end of a uni-polar West centered world.

The countries of East and South Africa, followed by the Latin American countries, are striving to establish their cultural presence at world level. This is in contradiction with what the American elite calls for in terms of cultural homogeneity and the pretense that any non American culture is inferior. All this means that the world with its intensified interactions is on its way towards the birth of the culture that can be said to be the bearer of "genes" of new world cultural structures which will rival the culture that American ideology attempts to impose on the minds of the peoples. In fact there did appear what we can call Emerging Asian Cultural Identities that represent a mixture of several cultural interactions in the world. To give some examples we have Korean pop singers, Japanese cartoons, Chinese Kung Fu, Indian cinema epics the full of dances and songs and which are actually affecting Hollywood productions. Anyone visiting the abovementioned countries clearly realizes that they are pregnant with many promising new things which have not yet become mature; one can also see a fertile interaction between the new and the traditional as well as a forward looking vision to encompass the world at large.

The above presentation leads us to say that the expected scenarios concerning the present transitional stage, the vacuum suffered in many parts of the world and the conditions necessary in order to benefit from the scientific and technological achievements, in addition to contributing in a positive manner in all that is being done, requires the presence of all societies and necessitates the following conditions:

1- Society must have a vision of the future based on the assimilation of changes, the understanding of the spirit of the age which is science and technology and the creation of an environment favorable to the spirit of the age along with the means of facing challenges with a new spirit devoted to the

affirmation of society's presence in harmony and not in conflict nor aggression...i.e. a new humanitarian world vision that goes beyond what has usually been dubbed Western Enlightenment.

2- Society must occupy its position in the world and must possess creative technology and be capable of developing knowledge and technique. Society must create an environment conducive to scientific and technological creativity with all that this requires in terms of objective transformations in society and in social relations, as well as in terms of the development of education and information and the provision of political and intellectual freedoms etc..

3- A democratic system and democratic institutions are necessary in order to support such an orientation and encourage positive individual and collective participation to achieve new creativity and not imitate the West.

4- To strengthen and develop human capital i.e. to enhance members of society culturally, scientifically, educationally and socially so that they may become an effective and creative free force in society and an element of productivity both locally and on the level of the world.

5- An advancing society should have the largest number of productive institutions producing the most important industries.

6- In the light and on the basis of all the above, society must establish a consumer society in keeping with its actual state of prosperity.

Everything that has proceeded raises a vital and urgent question:

What is the reality of the societies in the Arab World with regards to their vision, their organization and their mobility? The calamity does not reside in the shortage of means but rather in the absence of the vision and the determination... and the absence of a vision means the occultation of the future and continuing dependence.

Mr. KP Sharma Oli *

Non-Aligned Movement and AAPSO

I feel honored to be asked by the AAPSO permanent secretariat to write a brief account on the topic which may be quite relevant to the AAPSO movement. It is of course a moment of great happiness and pride for an organization to celebrate its golden jubilee in spite of many ups and down. Nepal AAPSO has a privilege to be associated with the commemorative event of AAPSO. On this occasion the topic which I have selected to write is an humble attempt to highlight the importance of NAM and AAPSO movement for the happiness and peace for the whole human community even in the 21st century.

The non-aligned movement emerged at a time when there were persistent attempts to bring the whole world under the grip of cold war politics. The newly independent nations which have just emerged from the process of decolonization were finding it very hard to maintain their independence and freedom of action. They wanted to free themselves from the influence of cold war politics which had already divided the world into two rival camps led by two rival superpowers the Soviet Union and the United States of America. The continuation of cold war situation in the inten1ational relations even after the end of world war second further aggravated the international situation and threatened the

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prospects of world peace and security. In such a complex situation the emergence of the NAM in the 60's had provided a timely forum for independent nations to forge a common stand against all kinds of pressures and challenges on their independence and freedom of judgments.

The first historic Afro-Asian conference which was held in Indonesian city of Bandung in April 1955 and was participated by the 29 countries including the kingdom of Nepal has been regarded as the genesis of the NAM. The historic Bandung conference of 1955 had laid the groundwork for the NAM which led to its first ever summit at Belgrade in 1961. The NAM principle is not only based on the basic five criteria which were formulated in Cairo in June 1961 in order to prepare for the first nonaligned Belgrade summit but also guided by Bandung spirit of famous 'Panchasila' that is five good principle of code of conduct which must be observed by all the nations of the world in their international relations in order to promote international peace, security, mutual cooperation and friendship. 'Panchasila' is a pattern of international behavior which is based on five good principles. They are;

1. mutual respect for each others territorial integrity and sovereignty,
2. non-aggression,
3. non-interference in each other internal affairs,
4. equality and mutual benefit, and
5. Peaceful coexistence.

Thus NAM's philosophical foundation or conceptual framework was profoundly influenced and shaped by Bandung spirit.

Nepal and Non- alignment

Since NAM first summit in 1961 in which 25 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe had participated, Nepal has been consistently champion of non aligned movement. Nepal

became a founding member of the non aligned movement and attended the first summit at Belgrade. In fact, from the first summit in Belgrade in September 1961 to the fourteenth summit in Havana of Cuba in September 2006, Nepal has attended all the summits at the highest level.

While the King Mahendra led Nepal's delegation to the first, second and third summits in Belgrade (1961), Cairo (1964), and Lusaka (1970) respectively, the delegation was led by late king Birendra from the fourth to the ninth NAM summits, namely Algiers (1973), Colombo (1976), Havana (1979), New Delhi (1983), Harare (1986), and Belgrade (1989).After the restoration of multiparty democracy in Nepal in 1990 NAM summits were attended by the Prime Minister of Nepal. While Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala led the Nepalese delegation to the 10th and 12th summits in Jakarta (1992) and Durban (1999) respectively, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba led the Nepalese delegation to the 11th summit at Cartagena Colombia in 1995 whereas Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand led the Nepalese delegation to the 13th NAM summit in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003.

As a deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Nepal I also had a privilease to lead the Nepali delegation at the fourteenth NAM summit which was held in Havana the capital city of Cuba in September 2006.

Thus representation of Nepal at all the NAM summits at the highest level shows her firm commitment and the faith in the principles of the nonalignment. Nepal's faith in the basic principles of non-alignment has always been reiterated at the summit meeting. Nepal as a founding member of NAM has strongly supported the basic principles of non-alignment, such as respect for national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non interference, in the internal affairs of other states; non use of force in international relations; settlement of disputes by peaceful means and above all the right of each member state to chart an

independent course in international relations as well to judge each international issue on its merit. As a non aligned country Nepal's stand on major international issues are thus well known. Nepal has always opposed to all forms of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and the policy of apartheid, proliferation of nuclear arms and exploitations and domination of all forms. Instead Nepal has always stood for national liberation struggle against foreign domination, promotion of human rights, democracy, development and justice, global peace and economic cooperation and has fully supported and welcomed all measures aims at halting the arms race in particular, achieving nuclear disarmament.

The policy of nonalignment has been the guiding principle of Nepal's foreign policy. The interim constitution of Nepal 2006, in its chapter dealing with the directive principles and policies of the state categorically states that the foreign policy of Nepal shall be guided by the principles of the UN, non alignment, the Panchsheel, international law and the value of world peace. Thus inclusion of non alignment principles as an aim of foreign policy of Nepal also proves her firm faith in the nonaligned policy.

Since the first summit to the fourteenth NAM summit, the movement has come a long way. During these years NAM membership has remarkably expanded. It has achieved a significant growth in both quantity and quality. The numbers of the members of the movement has increased from 25 in the first summit to 116.

Foraging a common stand and unity by nonaligned nations of major international issues and success in the prevention of major wars during these years are also important achievement so far made by the NAM. The regular meetings of heads of state or government of non aligned countries at the summit level are also a concrete proof of its continuity and dynamism. NAM efforts in ending the cold war, completion of decolonization, elimination of

apartheid policy in South Africa and promotion of better understanding cooperation and cordiality among the nations of the world cannot be underestimated.

If the achievements of NAM are noteworthy, the challenges which this movement is facing also deserve a due focus. With the end of the cold war in late 80's and the collapse of the system of block politics especially the soviet block, views have been expressed on the present and future roles of the nonaligned movement and the post cold era. Some critics have questioned the relevance and the very rationale of the movement.

In spite of the fact that there are certain shortcomings in the effective performance of the NAM it does not mean that NAM did not make any positive impact on international relations in the past or it is void of achievement or it has lost its relevancy. On the contrary NAM had played a major role in safeguarding the interests of small and poor nations. So it still holds a great significance in promoting the interests of small and poor nations. The political impact created by the successive NAM summits, during the last forty-five years cannot be minimized. The NAM declaration and programmes of actions are political documents of great significance.

Nepal firmly believes that NAM still has a big role to play in building a world peace, tolerance, trust, mutual understanding and cooperation. It should focus on new challenges that have emerged in recent years. It should take an active role in promoting democratic values, human rights and economic cooperation in the world. It should not remain helpless when the sovereignty and independence of any non aligned countries are threatened on account of threats of 'unilateralism' which has become a feature in post cold war international relations. NAM should take the initiatives not only to safeguard the sovereignty and independence of nations from the new threats of unilateralism but also from the growing threat of international terrorism.

In order to revitalize NAM must begin with economic agenda. Beside North-South dialogue, South- South cooperation, strengthening the UN and safeguarding the interests of developing nations should be given emphasis. Thus NAM is certainly expected to play a dynamic role in the changing international situation and actively contribute to solving the global and regional problems in order to make the movement more effective and meaningful. As peace, security and stability are still not secure in the world the relevance of NAM continues to grow in the 21st century.

AAPSO Movement

The first afro Asian people's solidarity conference was hold in Cairo, the capital city of Egypt, from 26th December 1957 to 1st January 1958. It was a historic conference in the true sense. AAPSO is an independent and non governmental body based on the principles of Bandung and non alignment, comprising more than 80 nation committees from Asia Africa Europe and Latin and North America.

Since its formation, it has traveled a long way and the people of the world have witnessed radical changes in international relations. During these years, AAPSO has identified itself with the mass movement of the afro Asian people who have waged their struggle relentlessly against colonialism, imperialism, racial discrimination, economic expansionism and for social economic progress, peace, democracy, human rights, development and disarmament around the world. Highlighting the objectives of AAPSO the preamble to its constitution states.

AAPSO is a mass solidarity movement among and for the people of the continents of Africa and Asia in their common struggle for genuine independence, sovereignty, socioe-conomic, development for the establishment of the new international economic order, a just durable world peace, the safeguarding of

the national and cultural characteristics of the afro-Asian people and the democratization of the international relation.

Based on the Bandung principles and the principles of nonaligned movement, which is an integral part of the world anti-imperialist movement, it conducts its activities in unity a struggle with all progressive and democratic forces in the world.

In this context AAPSO has played a pioneer role in promoting NAM principles at the people's level.

It is the first representative forum of the people's of Asia and Africa in their struggle against colonialism in all its forms, new and old imperialism for economic revival, social progress, consolidation of national sovereignty of the countries for peace, disarmament, democracy, and halt to the arms and nuclear race.

The organization provides a forum not only for Afro-Asian people but also for the Latin American people in their relentless campaign and efforts to defend and safeguard the independence and territorial integrity of their countries as also to extend the hand of solidarity and support to the national liberation movements around the world.

Though the colonial era is over and there is no cold war situation today, the world of 21st century is still not safe from the threat of intervention and war. The continuation of regional wars in many parts of the world, ethnic conflicts, rising poverty, environmental degration, conventional and nuclear arms race, and terrorism affect the prospects of world peace, security, and questions, moreover, have been raised on the relevancy of the nonaligned movement in post-cold war era.

In such changing situation, the AAPSO movement faces a challenging task in any reorientation of the NAM principles.

AAPSO Nepal considers that it is not appropriate to raise questions of relevancy on the future of NAM and AAPSO as the world is still not safe from the dangers of war and intervention. There are numerous problems which must be tackled efficiently

and effectively to make the world safe for people to live without fear and threat.

In such a situation, AAPSO has to move with determined efforts. The relevance of NAM and AAPSO has increased more. AAPSO can play an important and leading role in the promotion of world peace and mutual understanding by organizing international and regional programs which can immensely contribute to build up world opinion in favor of peace, democracy, human rights, and development.

AAPSO Nepal is committed to move forward with new zeal and programs guided by the spirit of Bandung and NAM principles and the UN charter. It organizes several functions on the basis of an annual calendar to highlight the current national, regional, and international issues related to peace, security, democracy, human rights, and development. The commitments of AAPSO to the nonaligned movement is so vital that it is the only nongovernmental organization which has an observer status in the NAM meetings.

Thus, AAPSO Nepal, since the day of its inception in 1958, has been playing a constructive and active role in the promotion of its ideas based on the NAM principles. It has been successful in projecting itself as a mass movement dedicated to peace and welfare of the people. it will be always be playing the mass awakening role in support of national independence, sovereignty, democracy, development, human rights, and world peace. As AAPSO marches towards its 50th year of existence in the 21st century, it pledges itself to continue its struggle for the welfare of the entire humanity.

Annex (2)

- Bi-lateral discussions
- Time Table
- List of Participants

Bi-lateral discussions During the Conference of the 50th Anniversary of AAPSO

First: Mongolian Association for International Solidarity (25/2/2008)

All the Mongolian delegates were present headed by: Professor Dr. Bilegt the president of the Mongolian Association for International Solidarity. AAPSO was represented by Mr. E.A. Vidyasekera.

They explained the organizational structure which comprise different movements within the country. They explained that they funded by the private sector. In this regard, they explained the role played by the ex- first lady of Mongolian - Mrs. Tsevelmaa Sharav.

They explained also the present set up of the government. Accordingly the government is composed of 4 parties. Mongolia has a population of 2.8 million. There are 4 million Mongolians living in outer Mongolia which is part of China.

The present economy is depended on heavy foreign investment, especially from South Korea. Oil is supplied by Russia.

They spoke about other NGOs especially a longstanding friend of AAPSO which is based in Mongolia under the name Asian - Buddhist conference for Peace. It is still an active organization based at the biggest Buddhist temple in Ulan - Batar.

*** Prepared by: Mr. E. A. Vidyasekera, Secretariat Coordinator and Ms. Hamsa Abd El-Hamid, Rapporteur of the Conference.**

Second: Meeting with the Asian Solidarity Committees (27/2/2008)

The following representatives of the committees participated:

* AIPSO
* Vietnam AAPSO
* Nepal AAPSO
* Sri Lanka
* British AAPSO
* Japan AAALA
* Mongolia
* Philippines
* CPAPD (China)
* CND from India
* From Secretariat (Mr. Nouri, Mr. Vidya, and Ms. Hamsa)

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak, the secretary general gave a brief introduction about the present state of affiliates of the Permanent Secretariat and the need for expanding with representatives from countries such as India.

He strengthened the necessity of mobilizing the movement. He supported the idea of establishing regional centers which will help for greater mobilization.

Mr. Choung from Vietnam gave a brief account of the meeting held in Hanoi on South - South Solidarity network.

He also gave a brief of the WPC Asia pacific regional meeting held in Hanoi where AAPSO also was present. He suggested that the Assembly of the WPC which will be held next April in Caracas should be represented by strong delegation comprising even by members of the national committees who would be willing to participate.

Nepal committee also proposed to organize a conference about South Asia free of WMDs at a suitable time which could be decided later.

Mr. Pallab Sen Gupta, secretary general of AIPSO India,

suggested a delegation from the Permanent Secretariat should visit Asian committees.

He also proposes that AIPSO is prepared to hold the 8th congress of AAPSO for which part of the expenditure will be borne by AIPSO. It will be convened next January or September 2009.

He also proposed a list of committees which will discuss all matters related to the congress.

Third: Meeting with the European Solidarity Committees (28/2/2008)

The meeting is composed of the following committees:

* SODI
* Russian AAPSO
* British AAPSO
* AFASPA
* OSPAAAL Spain
* Belgium

Mr. Nouri has explained the need of more cooperation with European countries including mobilization and organizing activities.

He discussed the question of finance and the need for joint projects on political activities in order to get support from government.

Ms. Paulette Pierson Mathy from Belgium spoke about the necessity for AAPSO to meet with other NGOs in Brussels, the center for European government in order to highlight the issues of the Afro-Asian countries.

She urged AAPSO to involve youth on its activities and suggested one session in big conferences to be dedicated for youth to meet with foreigners and eminent figures.

SODI representatives discussed the idea of finance, and support NGOs, stressing the idea of respecting the soverignity of the country.

The representative OSPAAAL Spain pointed out the need for

nominating a coordinator to deal with European committees. Also, he proposed for an initiative of organizing a conference in a European center with European organization and P.S. the idea of the conference to be about problems of Europe vis-Ã -vis south. He said African figures and NGOs must be invited.

AFASPA representative explained the different conditions briveliant in the European countries, including their values which need to 'be taken into consideration.

Fourth: Meeting with SODI (1/3/2008)

Mr. Achim Reichardt evaluated the 50th Anniversary conference and pointed out some short comments such as none representation from sub-Saharan Africa and he made special mentions to SWAPO, ANC, Mozambique.

Mr. Nouri said that should be more motivation for the African representative to participate.

Replying to a question by Mr. Nouri, Mr. Achim said that AAPSO European committees have to initiate projects which AAPSO shall coordinate.

Mr. Achim also suggested for cooperation between South and North committees of AAPSO. They should be involved together on projects such as that related to women, youth, trade and others.

Mr. Achim will inform the left parties of European parliament about this meeting and put on their attentions the aims of AAPSO.

He referred to certain funding institutions based in Germany

Fifth: Meetings with CPAPD (28/2/2008) and (1/3/2008)

The meetings focused on the problems facing AAPSO. And the role of China CPAPD as an observer committee on contributing the work of AAPSO.

CPAPD invited a delegation from AAPSO to visit China in 2009.

Sixth: Meeting with Japan AAALA (2/3/2008)

The meeting with Japan AAALA was concentrated on two ideas.

One about the method of the next congress to be held India to

be discussed with Japan AAALA. Secondly regarding the strengthening of NAM.

Mr. Nouri pointed out the need for Japan AAALA to contribute to AAPSO activities by participating at most of them and to help AAPSO to be outreaching to Latin America and Africa.

Japan AAALA referred to the next NAM summit in Cairo 2009 and their need to organize an exhibition about Atom bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and US military bases in Japan.

They requested AAPSO to discuss with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, if they agree, Japan AAALA will finance.

Time table

First day (26-2-2008)

9.00-10.00	**Registration**
10.00-11.00 **Chairperson**	**Inauguration Session (greetings)** - Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain-Acting President and Secretary-General of AAPSO.
Speakers	- Mr. Ahmed Hamroush –President of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee (Egypt) - AIPSO (India) - Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Secretary-General of the Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council (Iraq) - Japan AAALA (Japan). - Syrian Solidarity Committee (Syria) - Prof. Mohamed Aref –Secretary-General of British AAPSO (Britain) - Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis- Executive Secretary of the WPC

11.00-1.00	**1st Session:** **AAPSO in a Globalized Interdependent World**
Chairperson	- Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain-Acting President and Secretary-General of AAPSO.
Speakers	- Mr. Pallab Sen Gupta (India) - Dr. Samandar Kalandarov- AAPSO Deputy Secretary General (Russia) - Amb. Salm Quatin (Arab League) - Mr. Akiniwa (Japan AALA) - Mr. Pham Van Chuomg (Vietnam) - Amb. Zhu Dacheng (CPAPD/ China) - Mr. Helmi Sharawy (AARC) - Mr. Lakshman (Nepal AAPSO) *** Discussion**
1.00-1.30	Coffee Break
1.30-3.30	**2nd Session:** **Neo-liberal Globalization Policies:** *** Militarization of globalization** *** The possibility of building unconstraint economy in the era of globalization** *** Strengthening the anti-war movement**
Chairperson	- Mr. Yadave Reddy, General-Secretary (AIPSO-India)
Speakers	- Prof. Reynaldo De Guzman - President PPSC (Philippines) - Dr. Raouf Hamed (Egypt). - Mr. Pak Song Do Counsellor Embassy of DPRK in Cairo

	- Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis (WPC) - Amb. Nabil Badr - Mr. Apostolos Sotriopoülos (Federation Syndicate Mondial) - Mr. Omar Deeb (WFDY) - Dr. Mahdy Dakhallah Syrian Solidarity Committee) *** Discussion**
3.30-4.30	Lunch
4.30-6.30	**3rd Session:** **Consolidation of the Role of Regional Blocs** *** The radical changes in Latin America** *** The emergence of Chinese and Russian powers and enhancing Shanghai cooperation organization** *** Widening the mass movement-social forums**
Chairperson	- Mr. Mahmoud Al Mohery- President of the Tunisian Peace and Solidarity Committee (Tunisia)
Speakers	- Ambassador Victor R. Carazo (Embassy of Venezuela) - Ambassador Angel-Dalmau Fernandez (Embassy of Cuba) - Mr. Tran Dac Loi (Vietnam). *** Discussion**

Second day (27-2-2008)

10.00-12.00	**4th Session:** **Hotspots and the escalation of terrorism:**
Chairperson	- Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch – President of the Egyptian Solidarity Committee (Egypt)
Speakers	- Mr. Alexander Dzasokhov (Russia) - Mr. Mirghani Musaad (Sudan) - Dr. Ahmed Aly Ibrahim (Iraq). - Mr. Dryed Yaghi (Lebanon) - Prof. Mohamed Arif (British AAPSO) - Dr. Saed Kamal (Palestine). - Mr. Pham Van Chuong (Vietnam). - Mr. Pavlos Kalosinatos (Cyprus). - Mr. A.A.M. Marleen (Sri Lanka). - Mr. Abd Al-Nabi Salman (Bahrain). *** Discussion**
12.00-12.30	Coffee Break
12.30-2.30	**5th Session:** **Disarmament and Eliminating Nuclear Proliferation**
Chairperson	- Prof. Mohamed Aref- Secretay-General British AAPSO
Speakers	- Ambassador Mohamed Ibrahim Shaker – ECFA (Egypt) - Mr. Sukla Sen- CNDP (India). - Mr. Sayed Zakery (Embassy of Iran). - Mr. Toshio Akiniwa (Japan AAALA). *** Discussion**
2.30-3.30	Lunch

3.30-5.30	**6th Session:** **The Empowerment of Women and Human Rights**
Chairperson	- Mr. Lotf Al Thowr, Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council
Speakers	- Ms. Emily Nafaa (Jordan). - Ms. Skevi Koukouma – WIDF Vice-President (Cyprus) - Mr. Mosa Al Mayata, Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee (Jordan). - Ms. SH. Tsevelmaa (Ex. First Lady of Monogolia). *** Discussion**

Third day (28-2-2008)

10.00-12.00	**7th Session:** **The Environmental and Climate Changes**
Chairperson	- Mr. A.A.M. Marleen- Secretary General of Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka
Speakers	- Dr. Abdul Monem Obeid- Professor at the Faculty of Medicine. - Amb. Zhu Deching (CPAPD, China). *** Discussion**
12.00-12.30	Coffee Break
12.30-2.30	**8th Session:** **Organizational session**
Chariperson	- Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain-Acting President and Secretary-General of AAPSO
2.30-3.30	Lunch

List of participants

A) Egyptian Foreign Ministry
- Ambassador Khaled Elbakly- Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Ms. Rasha Hamdy- Second Secretary –Department of NGOs

B) Diplomatic Corps
1) Embassy of Algeria
- Mr. Amare Aeash - Minister of Plenipotentiary Relations.

2) Embassy of Cuba
- Mr. Angel Dalmau Fernandez- Ambassador of Cuba.

3) Embassy of D.P.R. Korea
- Mr. Pak Song Do Counselor.
- Mr. Ri Yong - First secretary.

4) Embassy of Iran
- Mr. Sayed Kassem Zakery- Second Secretary.
- Mr. Karem Azize -Third Counselor.

5) Embassy of India
- Mr. Rajesh Swami- Press and Information Officer.

6) Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Maged Abd El-aziz - First secretary.

7) Embassy of the Russian Federation
- Mr. Mikhail Bogdanov - Ambassador.
- Mr. Maxim Maximov - Counsellor.
- Mr. Martynov Michail - Counsellor.
- Mr. Georgy Pyatkin - Second Secretary.
- Mr. Dmitry Minaev – Third Secretary.
- Mr. Vadim Kuznetsov-Attaché.

8) Embassy of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Ibrahim Ansar - Ambassador.
- Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne- Second Secretary.

9) Embassy of Venezuela
- Mr. Victor Carazo -Ambassador.

10) Embassy of Vietnam
- Mr. Le Tien Ba- Ambassador.

11) Embassy of Yemen
- Mr. Fouad Ali Elawdi - First Secretary.

C) Committees:

1) Bahrain Committee (under construction)
- Mr. Abd El Jalil Saleh Al Na'eme - Member.
- Abd Al Nabi Salman- Member.
- Iman Showeter - Member.

2) British Afro- Asian Solidarity Organization
- Prof. Mohammed Arif -Secretary General.
- Mrs. Sriyani Arif- Executive Member.

3) Chinese Peoples' Association for Peace and Disarmament

- Amb. Zhu Dacheng-Senior Advisor to the CPAPD-Vice-President of China Association for International Understanding.
- Mr. Kong Genhong-Senior Research Fellow,CPAPD.
- Ms. Chen Huaifan-Director, General Office,CPAPD.
- Mr. Yu Wei-Program Organizer, interpreter, CPAPD.
- Mr. Cui Guozhong-Staff, CPAPD.

4) Cyprus Solidarity Committee

- Mr. Pavlos Kalosinatos.

5) D.P.R.K Solidarity Committee

- Authorized the embassy to represent them.

6) Egyptian Solidarity Committee

- Mr. Ahmed Hamrouch-President.
- Ambassador Moheb El-Samrah- Vice-President.
- Dr. Helmy El Hadedy- Vice-President.
- Mr. Mahmoud Tawfik- Secretary General.
- Mr. Talaat Ahmed Mosallam – Assistant to the Secretary General.
- Ambassador Ehab Sarour- Member of the committee secretariat.
- Ambassador Ahmed Tawfik Khalil- Member.
- Mr. Mohamed Dawood- Member.
- Dr. Mohamed Abd Alrasoul- Member.
- Mr. Khaled El Fishawy- Responsible for Information Section.

7) French Association of Friendship with the People of Africa (AFASPA)

- Mr. Jean- Paul Escoffier- Preisdent of AFASPA.

8) Germany Solidarity Committee (SODI)
- Mr. Andre Schwartz- Executive Director.
- Ms. Anne Stark- Member.
- Mr. Achim Reichardt- Member.

9) Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity
- Dr. Ahmed Ali Ibrahim - Secretary General.

10) All India Peace and Solidarity Organization
- Mr. Pallab Sengupta- Secretary General.
- Mr. K. Yadave Reddy- Secretary General.

11) Japan AALA
- Mr. Toshio Akiniwa - National Council Representative (President).
- Mr. Takashi Kono- Standing Council Member.
- Mr. Akio Kawabe- President of Chiba AALA.
- Mr. Takamichi kudo – AKITA AALA.
- Mr. Saburo Sunaga- Council Member of Gunma AALA.

12) Jordanian Committee for Peace and Solidarity
- Dr. Mostafa Soliman El- Shonaykat- Vice President.
- Mr. Moussa El Moaytta – Secretary General.
- Mr. Monzer El Sapagh - Member.

13) Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee
- Ms. Emli Nafaa - Secretary General.

14) Lebanon Peace and Solidarity Committee
- Mr. Doreed Yaghy - Vice-President of the Socialist Progressive Party.

15) Mongolian Association for International Solidarity
- Mrs. Tsevelmaa Sharav, Ex-First Lady of Mongolia and head of Women's Fund of Mongolia.

- Mr. Baasandorj D. - Member.
- Ms.Badam Baigalmaa- Member of IASM.
- Ms.Tsogoo Khishgee- Member of IASM.
- Mr. Dagva Tsakhilgaan- President of the Union for Peace and Friendship.
- Ms.Myagmarjav Gapilmaa- head of People's Diplomatic Club.
- Mr.Dugersuren Bilegt- President of IASM
- Ms.Luvsandorj Dugaraa - Member of IASM.

16) Nepal AAPSO

- Prof. Lakshman Bahadur K.C.-Delegation Head, Acting Chairman of Nepal AAPSO and Prof. of Tribhuvan University.
- Mr. Gopal Prasad Pokharel-Secretary General.
- Mr.Rishi Prasad Subedi-Central Committee Member.
- Mr. Rajendra Man Singh-Central Committee Member.
- Mr. Kumar Prasad Gautam-Central Committee Member.

17) Philippines Peace and solidarity Council

- Mr. Reynaldo De Guzman- National Presidnet.

18) Russia

- Dr. Alexander D Zasokhov- Chairman of the cultural Committee and Ex- Chairman of Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.
- Mr. Kim Ahmed Koshev- Vice President of the Russian Society of the Afro-Asian Solidarity & Cooperation.
- Dr. Samandar Kalandarov- Executive Secretary of the Russian Society of the Afro-Asian Solidarity & Cooperation.

19) Spain OSPAAAL- Organization of Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- Mr. Jaime Ballesterros – President.

20) Sri Lanka Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka
- Mr. A.A. M. Marleen- Secretary General.

21) Sudanese Committee for Solidarity
- Mr. Merghany Hassan Mossaed- Secretary General.

22) Syrian Solidarity Committee
- Dr. Abd Elatif Omran- Member.
- Dr. Mahdi Dakhlallah -Member.

23) Tunisian Committee for Peace and Solidarity
- Mr. Mahmoud Elmoherey- President.

24) Vietnam Committee for Asian African Solidarity and Cooperation
- Mr. Tran Doc Loi-Secretary General.

25) Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation
- Mr. Pham Van Choung -President

26) Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity
- Dr. Hassan Meki -Presidet.
- Mr. Aly Lotf Al-Thour-Vice President.
- Mr. Mohamed Abdallah El-Bakary- Executive Manager.

D) Organizations

1) Arab and African Research Center
- Mr. Helmy Sha'rawi -Director.
- Mr. Mostafa El Gamal – Member of the Presiduim.

2) African Association
- Ambassador Ahmed Hagag - Secretary General.

- Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Abd El Ghaffar-Member of the Presideum.
- Mr. Atif Abdo - Head of Foreign Affairs.

3) AGEG
- Eng. Mamdouh Habashi.

4) Al Hariri Association (Lebanon)
- Mr. Ahmed Alezz- Counselor.

5) Arab League
- Amb. Salam Ahmed Quatin –Director of Civil Society Department.

6) Arab Labor Organization
- Mr. Wa'al Assad - Minister Plenipotentiary.

7) Arab Organization for Human Rigths
- Mr. Mohamed Fayek- Secretary General.

8) Arab Program for Human Rights Activists
- Mr. Kassem El Mahdawi- Responsible for Darfur's File.

9) Arab Social Forum
- Eng. Saad El-Tawil- Member.

10) Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.
- Dr. Abd EL-Khaleq Farouk- Economic Expert.

11) Cairo University-Faculty of Political and Economic Studies
- Dr. Eglal Ra'fat- Head of African Egyptian Studies Programme.

12) Coalition For Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (India)
- Mr. Sukla Sen-Member of National Coordination Committee.

13) Egyptian Center for Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Shakr- Vice President.

14) Egyptian Society for United Nations
- Mr. Ahmed Abdel Hakim -Secretary General.
- Mr. Mostafa Mohamed - Assistant Secretary General.

15) Federation Syndicate Mondiale - Greece
- Mr. Apostolos Sotiro Poulos.

16) Nabil El Helali Association for Rights and Freedoms
- Mr. Nabil Sobhi-Member.

17) Socialist Afak Center
- Mr. Salah Adli- Director.

18) United Nation Center for Information
- Mr. Maher Naser- Director.

19) World Federation for Democratic youth
- Mr. Omar Deeb- Vice-President

20) Women's International Democratic Federation (Cyprus)
- Ms. Skevi Koukouma- Vice-President.

21) World Peace Council (Greece)
- Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis- Executive Secretary.

E) Public Figures
- Ms. Pierson Mathy Pauletee (Belgium).

- Amb. Sa'aed kamal (Palestine).
- Ms. Nadia Yaghy (Lebanon).
- Mr. Hazem El youseefy -Cairo representative of the Kurdistan National Union (Iraq).
- Ambassador Nabeel Badr.
- Prof Anwar Abd Elmalek, University Professor.
- Mr. Aly Abdul Razzak (Iraq)-Representative of the Development Magazine in Russia.
- Ms. Hamdea Mahmoud (Iraq) - Bank Manager.
- Mr. Ahmed Sayed Saleem- Manager of the Arab –African Bank.
- Mr.Pabakr Mahmoud Rasoul (Iraq).
- Mr. Shawki Galal- Writer and Translator.
- Dr. Karima Koreem- Professor of Economy at al Azhar University.
- Dr. Mohammed Ra'ouf Hamed-Professor of Pharma Cology.
- Mr. Ahmed Al haboby (Iraq) - Lawyer.
- Dr. Abd Almonaem Abeed- Faculty of Medicine at Cairo University.
- Mr. Ragae Fayed- Writer and Political Analyzer.

F) AAPSO

- Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak Hussain-Acting President and Secretary General.
- Mr. E. A. Vidyasekera -Sri Lanka Representative.
- Mr. Julien Randriamasivelo- Madagascar Representative.
- Dr. Fakhry Labib – Head of Information Section.
- Ms. Hamsa Abd El-Hamid Genidy – Rapporteur of the Conference.

G) Information

1) Al- Ahram News Paper:

- Mr. Tariq El Sheikh - Vice Head Of reports And Foreign Investigations Section.

2) Al Badeel News Paper:
- Mr. Haithm El Nwehe- Journalist

3) Middle East News Agency:
- Dr. Ehab El Saeed.

4) Awan News paper:
- Mr. Abd El Gawad Abou Kab - Head of Political Section.
- Ms. Lena Mazlom- Journalist.
- Mr. Hedar Alaa Ibrahim- Photographer.

5) Iraq Voice News agency:
-Ms. Nada Omran- Correspondent.

6) El Wafd Newspaper:
- Ms. Ans El Wojoud- Head of Information Section.

7) El Ghad Newspaper:
- Mr. Amr Amar- Journalist.
- Ms. Samia Mohammed Ahmed -Journalist.

8) Egyptian TV:
- Mr. Mohammed Abdullah –. Director- Channel 2.
- Ms. Nadia Mansour- Photographer

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Annex (2):

رقـــم الايـــداع : ٢١٨٠٧ لســـــنة ٢٠٠٨ م

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